

ARMY



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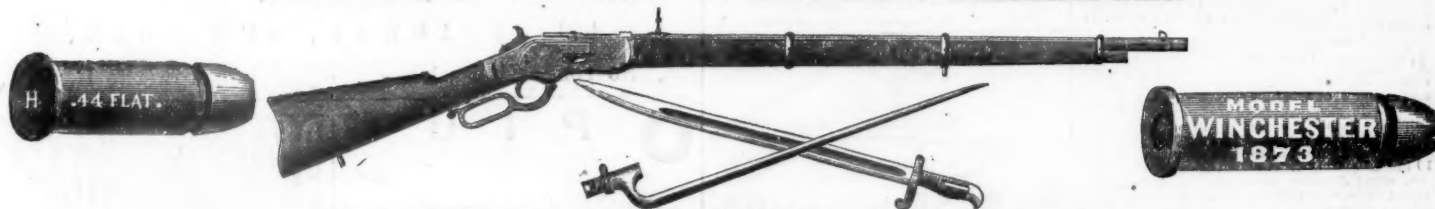
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NAME.	Rate.	Guns.	Ton'ge.	COMMANDERS.	STATION.	NAME.	Rate.	Guns.	Ton'ge.	COMMANDERS.	STATION.
AJAX, s.	4th	2	550	Lt.-Comdr. Geo. E. Wingate	N. A. Station, Pensacola.	Nina, s.	4th	*4	306	Mate J. H. Brown	Torpedo-boat, Newport, R. I.
Alaska, s.	2nd	12	1122	Capt. A. A. Semmes	European Station, Lisbon.	Omaha, s.	2nd	12	1122	Capt. Edw. Simpson	S. P. Sta., Panama.
Alert, s.	3rd	6	640	Comdr. J. D. Marvin	Spec. Serv., Philadelphia.	Onward, s.	4th	3	704	Lt.-Comdr. Edw. S. Keyser	Storeship, S. P. Sta., Callao, Peru.
Alarm, s.	4th	1	400	Lieut.-Comdr. W. B. Hoff	Torpedo boat, New York.	Ossipee, s.	3rd	8	828	Comdr. S. L. Breese	N. A. Sta., Barbadoes.
Ashuelot, p.	3rd	6	786	Comdr. Edm. O. Matthews	Asiatic Station, Nagasaki.	Pawnee, s.	3rd	2	872	Lieut. John K. Winn	N. A. Sta., Port Royal, S. C.
Brooklyn, s.	2nd	30	3000	Capt. John H. Upshur	Flag-s., S. A. Sta., Rio Janeiro.	Palos, s.	4th	*6	306	Lt.-Comdr. W. R. Bridgman	Asiatic Sta., Shanghai.
CANONICUS, s.	4th	22	550	Comdr. Chas. A. Babcock	N. A. Sta., New Orleans.	Pensacola, s.	2nd	22	3000	Capt. Bancroft Gherardi	Flag-s., N. P. Sta., Acapulco, Mex.
CATESKILL, s.	4th	2	496	Comdr. Henry Wilson	Spec. Serv., Norfolk.	Phlox, s.	4th	1	317	Mate Benj. G. Perry	Tug, New York.
Congress, s.	2nd	16	3000	Capt. Earl English	En route to Port Royal, S. C.	Pinta, s.	4th	2	306	Lt.-Comdr. N. Mayo Dyer	N. A. Sta., Port Royal, S. C.
Colorado, s.	1st	46	3032	Capt. John L. Davis	Sho's Sta., New York.	Plymouth, s.	2nd	12	1122	Capt. Edward Barrett	N. A. Sta., Norfolk.
Constellation, s.	3rd	10	1236	Comdr. Edward Terry	Spec. Serv., Annapolis, Md.	Portsmouth, s.	3rd	14	846	Comdr. Silas Casey, Jr.	N. P. Sta., Mare Island, Cal.
Dale, s.	3rd	8	330	Lt.-Comdr. Merrill Miller	Annapolis, Naval Academy.	Powhatan, p.	2nd	17	2182	Capt. James E. Jonett	Spec. Serv., Norfolk.
Despatch, s.	4th	4	730	Comdr. Fredk. Rodgers	Recruit Ship, Baltimore.	Potomac, s.	3rd	22	1475	Comdr. H. A. Adams, Jr.	Receiving Ship, Philadelphia.
DICTATOR, s.	2nd	2	1750	Comdr. R. L. Law	N. A. Sta., Port Royal, S. C.	Relief, s.	4th	3	468	Lieut. E. D. Tansig	Receiving Ship, Washington.
Fortune, s.	4th	2	306	Comdr. Fred. R. Smith	Tug, Pensacola.	Rescue, s.	4th	1	111	Mate Samuel Lomax	Fire Tug, Washington.
Franklin, s.	1st	39	3173	Capt. Saml. R. Franklin	Flag-s., Eur. Sta., Villefranche.	Richmond, s.	2nd	14	2000	Capt. Philip C. Johnson	Flag-s., S. P. Sta., at sea.
Frolic s.	4th	8	614	Lieut. W. C. Gibson	S. A. Sta., Montevideo.	Rio Bravo, s.	3rd	10	431	Lt.-Cr. H. L. Johnson, ord.	Spec. Serv., Rio Grande.
Gettysburg, p.	4th	23	518	Lt.-Comdr. P. M. Green	Spec. Serv., Havana.	Rose, s.	4th	62	Mate John Oden'dhal	Tug, Pensacola.	
Hartford, s.	2nd	18	3000	Capt. Stephen B. Luce	Norfolk, ordered to Asiatic Sts.	SAUGUS, s.	4th	2	550	Lt.-Comdr. Jos. B. Coghlan	N. A. Sta., Pensacola.
Huron, s.	3rd	4	450	Comdr. C. C. Carpenter	Spec. Serv., Philadelphia.	Saco, s.	3rd	3	410	Comdr. Chas. J. McDougal	Asiatic Sta., Yokohama.
Independence, s.	3rd	22	1891	Capt. Thos. Pattison	Receiving Ship, Mare Island, Cal.	Sabine, s.	3rd	22	1475	Comdr. A. E. Yates	Receiving Ship, Portsmouth, N.H.
Intrepid, s.	4th	1	330	Comdr. C. L. Huntington	Tug, New York.	Santee, s.	3rd	48	1475	Lt.-Comdr. Merrill Miller	Gunnership, Naval Academy.
Junista, s.	3rd	1	828	Comdr. S. Dana Greene	Eur. Sta., Gibraltar.	Shawmut, s.	3rd	3	410	Comdr. G. C. Wilcox	N. A. Sta., Key West.
Kearsarge, s.	3rd	6	695	Comdr. F. V. McNair	Flag-s., New York.	Speedwell, s.	3rd	3	306	Lieut. T. M. Gardner	Tug, Portsmouth, N. H.
Lackawanna, s.	10	1026	Comdr. James A. Greer	N. P. Sta., Mare Island, Cal.	St. Louis, s.	3rd	16	766	Comdr. Robt. L. Phythian	Receiving Ship, League Island, Pa.	
LEHIGH, s.	4th	2	496	Comdr. G. A. Stevens	Spec. Serv., Norfolk.	St. Marys, s.	3rd	16	766	Comdr. Robt. L. Phythian	School Ship, New York.
MANOPAC, s.	4th	2	550	Lt.-Comdr. D. C. Kells, ord.	N. A. Sta., Pensacola.	Supply, s.	4th	2	547	Comdr. G. W. Hayward	Spec. Serv., New York.
MANHATTAN, s.	4th	2	550	Lieut. Jas. A. Chesley	N. A. Sta., Pensacola.	Swatara, s.	3rd	8	910	Comdr. A. P. Cooke	Spec. Serv., Port Royal.
Marion, s.	3rd	8	910	Comdr. R. F. Bradford	Spec. Serv., Portsmouth, N. H.	Tallapoosa, p.	4th	*2	650	Lieut. D. G. McRitchie	Spec. Serv., Philadelphia.
Mayflower, s.	4th	2	450	Comdr. J. H. Gillis	Tug, Philadelphia.	Tennessee, s.	2nd	23	2135	Capt. W. W. Low	Asiatic Sta., Nagasaki.
Michigan, p.	3rd	23	450	Comdr. J. H. Gillis	Spec. Serv., Marquette.	Triana, s.	4th	*2	396	Mate Lewis G. Cook	Tug, Annapolis, Md.
Minnesota, s.	1st	46	3000	Capt. A. W. Johnson	Flag-s., New York.	Tuscarora, s.	3rd	6	736	Comdr. Jos. N. Miller	N. P. Sta., en route to Australia.
MONTAUK, s.	4th	2	496	Comdr. E. P. McCrea	Spec. Serv., Norfolk.	Wabash, p.	1st	45	3030	Capt. Ralph Chandler	S. A. Sta., Montevideo.
Monocacy, p.	3rd	6	747	Comdr. Joseph P. Fyffe	Asiatic Sta., Tientsin.	Worcester, s.	2nd	15	2000	Capt. W. D. Whiting	Receiving-ship, Boston.
Monongahela, s.	2nd	11	990	Capt. Lewis A. Kimberly	S. A. Sta., Rio de Janeiro.	Yantic, s.	3rd	3	410	Comdr. Robt. F. R. Lewis	Flag-s., N. A. Sta., Norfolk, Va.
Mine Hampshire, s.	2nd	15	3600	Comdr. Chas. H. Cushman	Receiving Ship, Norfolk.						Asiatic Sta., Yokohama.

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FOR SALE—Just received, the cheapest and best yet, one mile to depot, 30 miles from Boston, cottage house with L, 8 rooms, painted and blinded; good barn, 40x30; soap factory, 18x26, now doing a good business; 2 boilers, with all the stock, tools and appliances necessary to carry on the business; 59 acres of land, suitably divided, 30 acres in wood; will cut 200 cords hard wood; also 1 horse, 1 cow, 2 hogs, lot poultry, 2 express wagons, 1 light wagon, 1 light and 1 heavy harness, and all the farming tools; 8 tons hay in the barn; 2 acres of crops in variety; household furniture in part. Don't wait until sold; come at once. Price \$1,800. GEO. H. CHAPIN, 34 Tremont row.

FOR SALE—Village farm; 9 acres of splendid land, easy of cultivation, no stones; keeps cow and horse; 40 apple and pear trees, grapes and small fruits in abundance; 2 story house, painted in parti colors, 9 rooms, set boiler in kitchen; barn 24x40, needs some repairs; new henry; beautiful spot, fine shade trees, running brook in front of the house, on main street, 10 minutes' walk from depot, 28 miles from Boston, short distance to a large manufacturing town; satisfactory reason given for selling at the office; price \$1,300; \$600 cash. GEO. H. CHAPIN, 34 Tremont row.

FOR SALE—Snug village farm, 12 miles from Boston, smooth, rich land, 25 acres, no stones, choice fruit; good house with L and piazza; stable 30x25 with cellar, all in good repair, beautifully located, commanding charming views; fine lot of hard wood, enough for the use of the place. For a vegetable farm it can hardly be excelled; within one-quarter mile of church and school, and is every way desirable. The owner must sell, but does not need the money, and will take \$400 down; a great bargain is offered, as the place must be sold at once. Apply to GEO. H. CHAPIN, 34 Tremont row, Boston.

FOR SALE—17 miles west of Boston, 1½ miles from depot, a good farm of 88 acres, 26 in heavy wood, estimated to cut 300 cords, or nearly enough to pay for the estate; rich, productive land, watered by a brook; cuts 15 tons of hay, keeps six cows and horse through the year; good house of 15 rooms, with granite underpinning; barn 42x30 feet, with cellar, 16 feet posts, carriage house, piggery, henry and granary, all in good repair; an excellent stock farm; was carried on last year by a lady at a good profit. She is now determined to sell, and offers it for \$3,300 on easy terms; we have just examined it and pronounce it a decided bargain. Apply to GEO. H. CHAPIN, 34 Tremont row, Boston.

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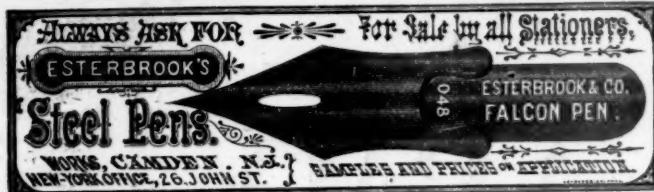
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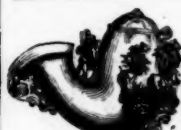
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ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 1876.

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THE ARMY.

ULYSSES S. GRANT,
President and Commander-in-Chief.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

W. W. Belknap, Secretary of War.

Brigadier-General E. D. Townsend, Adjutant-General.

Casualties among the Commissioned Officers of the U. S. Army reported to the Adjutant-General's Office during the week ending Saturday, January 1, 1876.

Captain Francis Le B. Monroe, Assistant Surgeon—Resigned Dec. 31, 1875.

First Lieutenant Charles F. Loshe, Eighth Infantry—Resigned Dec. 31, 1875.

Second Lieutenant Henry A. Irgens, Seventh Infantry—Resigned Dec. 31, 1875.

Changes of Stations of Troops reported to the Adjutant-General's Office during the week ending Saturday, January 1, 1876.

Companies G and I, Twenty-fourth Infantry, from Fort Brown, Texas, to Ringgold Barracks, Texas.

Company E, Ninth Cavalry, to Fort Wingate, N. M.

Company G, Ninth Cavalry, to Fort Garland, C. T.

Company H, Ninth Cavalry, to Fort Stanton, N. M.

ABSTRACT OF SPECIAL ORDERS.

Issued from the War Department, Adjutant-General's Office, for the week ending January 4, 1876.

Thursday, December 30.

The leave of absence granted Second Lieutenant E. A. Godwin, Eighth Cavalry (Fort Brown, Texas), in S. O. No. 227, Dec. 3, 1875, from Headquarters Department of Texas, is extended five months.

Discharged.—Private Samuel Patterson, General Service, U. S. Army, attached to Company K, Second Artillery, now with his command.

First Lieutenant W. M. Wallace, Sixth Cavalry, is relieved from duty as member of the General Court-martial appointed to meet at St. Louis Barracks, Mo., by Par. 6, S. O. No. 253, Dec. 13, 1875, from this office, and First Lieutenant C. C. Cresson, First Cavalry, is detailed in his stead.

Corporal Eugene Haas, Company K, Second Infantry, now at Fort Leavenworth, Kas., is transferred to the General Service Detachment, U. S. Army, at the Leavenworth Military Prison, as a private.

The leave of absence for seven days granted First Lieutenant C. B. Weston, Fourteenth Infantry (Cleveland, Ohio), in S. O. No. 204, Dec. 17, 1875, from Headquarters, General Recruiting Service, is extended four days.

Friday, December 31.

The extension of leave of absence granted Second Lieutenant Robert H. Fletcher, Twenty-first Infantry (Fort Lapwai, Idaho T.), in S. O. No. 157, Nov. 27, 1875, from Headquarters Military Division of the Pacific, is further extended four months.

The expense incurred in the enlistment of John Burton, Charles S. Hall, and Louis R. Carvalho, rejected recruits of the General Service, U. S. Army, will be stopped equally from the pay of Surgeon C. T. Alexander and First Lieutenant W. T. Hartz, Fifteenth Infantry. The Superintendent General Recruiting Service will inform the Paymaster-General of the amount incurred.

Discharged.—Privates Charles Hewitt, I, Fifth Cavalry, now with his command; Jacob Hoebel and James Murray, General Service, U. S. Army, now on duty at the Leavenworth Military Prison.

[No special Orders were issued from the Adjutant-General's Office on January 1, 1876.]

Monday, January 3.

So much of S. O. No. 260, Dec. 20, 1875, from this office, as relieves Veterinary Surgeon C. A. Stein, Seventh Cavalry, from duty in the Department of the Gulf and directs him to report in person to the commanding officer of his regiment at Fort Abraham Lincoln, D. T., is suspended until further orders.

Discharged.—Private Fred Bates, E, First Cavalry, now a deserter at large.

Leave of absence for six months on Surgeon's certificate of disability is granted Post Chaplain D. W. Eakins (Fort Union, N. M.), with permission to leave the Department of the Missouri.

Tuesday, January 4.

A General Court-martial is hereby appointed to meet at Fort Columbus, N. Y. H., on the 10th day of January, 1876, for the trial of Private Wm. Porter, Company D, Select Recruits General Service, U. S. Army, and such other prisoners as may be brought before it. Detail for the court: First Lieutenants John Harold, Nineteenth Infantry; Joseph Keefe, Fourth Infantry; Second Lieutenants Louis Wilhelm, First Infantry; Palmer Tilton, Twentieth Infantry; B. N. Waters, Fifteenth Infantry. First Lieutenant Wm. Auman, Thirteenth Infantry, Judge-Advocate of the Court.

By direction of the President, Lieutenant-Colonel John P. Hatch, Fourth Cavalry, will report by letter for temporary duty to the Superintendent Mounted Recruiting Service, St. Louis Barracks, Mo.

The Quartermaster's Department will furnish Maurice Joy, late private, Company D, Tenth Infantry,

with transportation from Milwaukee, Wis., to Washington, to enable him to enter the Soldiers' Home, the cost of which will be refunded to the Quartermaster's Department by the treasurer of the Soldiers' Home, District of Columbia.

The leave of absence on Surgeon's certificate of disability granted First Lieutenant H. H. Crews, Fourth Cavalry (Fort Sill, I. T.), in S. O. No. 219, Oct. 29, 1875, from this office, is extended three months.

GENERAL COURT-MARTIAL ORDERS.

G. C.-M. O. No. 108, Washington, Dec. 22, 1875.—Before a General Court-martial which convened at Newport Barracks, Ky., Nov. 10, 1875, and of which Colonel David S. Stanley, Twenty-second Infantry, is president. Recruit William Johnson, Company E, Disposable General Service Recruits, U. S. Army, was found guilty of "Neglect of duty, to the prejudice of good order and military discipline," and sentenced "To forfeit six dollars of his monthly pay for the period of six months, and to be confined at hard labor at such place as the proper authority may direct for the period of three months." The proceedings, findings, and sentence of the General Court-martial in the foregoing case of Recruit William Johnson, Company E, Disposable General Service Recruits, U. S. Army, are approved. In consideration of the recommendation of six members of the Court, and of the prolonged confinement which the prisoner has already undergone, partly in consequence of delay occasioned by an error in the record requiring its return for revision by the Court, the sentence is mitigated to a "forfeiture of six dollars of his monthly pay for three months."

G. C.-M. O. No. 109, Washington, Dec. 22, 1875.—Before a General Court-martial which convened at Newport Barracks, Ky., Nov. 10, 1875, and of which Colonel David S. Stanley, Twenty-second Infantry, is president, was arraigned and tried—First Lieutenant Henry Marcotte, Seventeenth Infantry. Charge I.—"Violation of the 60th Article of War. Charge II.—"Conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman." Finding.—Charge I, "Not guilty, but guilty of neglect of duty;" Charge II, "Not guilty." Sentence, "To be reprimanded in orders and to forfeit to the United States \$50 per month of his pay for two months." The proceedings, findings, and sentence of the General Court-martial in the foregoing case of First Lieutenant Henry Marcotte, Seventeenth Infantry, are approved, and the sentence will be duly executed. The judgment of the Court, as thus announced, is deemed to convey a sufficient rebuke of the neglect of duty of which Lieutenant Marcotte has been duly convicted, and which exposed him also to the painful imputation of much graver culpability, from which the findings now relieve him. The General Court-martial of which Colonel David S. Stanley, Twenty-second Infantry, is president, is hereby dissolved.

G. C.-M. O. No. 110, Washington, Dec. 27, 1875.—In the case of Henry S. Selden, late private, Company A, Thirteenth Infantry, now in confinement in the Leavenworth Military Prison, the period of confinement is reduced to one year, commencing March 31, 1875.

G. C.-M. O. No. 111, Washington, Dec. 27, 1875.—Before a General Court-martial which convened at Fort Hays, Kas., Sept. 16, 1875, pursuant to S. O. No. 162, Headquarters Department of the Missouri, Fort Leavenworth, Kas., Sept. 3, 1875, and of which Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. G. Whistler, Fifth Infantry, is president, was arraigned and tried—Captain James S. Casey, Fifth Infantry. Charge.—"Drunk on duty." Specification.—"That he, Captain James S. Casey, Fifth Infantry, being on duty as a member of the General Court-martial, and while the said Court was in session, was found drunk. This at Fort Lyon, Colorado, on the 23d of July, 1875." Finding, "Guilty." Sentence, "To be dismissed the service of the United States." In conformity with the 106th Art. of War, the record of the proceedings of the General Court-martial in the foregoing case of Captain James S. Casey, Fifth Infantry, has been transmitted to the Secretary of War for the orders of the President. The proceedings, findings, and sentence are approved. In consideration of the previous military record of Captain Casey, and of palliating circumstances in his case, made apparent since the trial, the President is pleased to mitigate the sentence to "suspension from rank and command, and forfeit of half pay for eighteen months." As thus mitigated the sentence will be duly executed.

G. C.-M. O. No. 112, Washington, Dec. 27, 1875.—In the case of Peter Forton, late private, Company C, Battalion of Engineers, U. S. Army, now in confinement at Willet's Point, N. Y. H., the unexecuted portion of the sentence is remitted, and he will be released from confinement and set at liberty.

G. C.-M. O. No. 113, Washington, Dec. 31, 1875.—In the case of Second Lieutenant Samuel W. Fountain, Eighth Cavalry, now undergoing sentence of a General Court-martial at Fort McRae, N. M. (G. C.-M. O. No. 92, W. D., A.-G. O., Nov. 15, 1875), so much of the mitigated sentence as relates to forfeiture of pay is hereby modified so as to allow him half-pay during the remainder of the term of his sentence.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE U. S.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

W. T. Sherman, General of the Army of the United States.

Colonel W. D. Whipple, Assistant Adjutant-General.

The leave of absence for two months, granted Sec-

ond Lieutenant George A. Jaeger, Twelfth Infantry, by S. O. No. 101, c. s., Headquarters Division of the Pacific, is extended one month. (S. O. No. 74, Dec. 31, 1875.)

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI.

Lieut.-Gen. P. H. Sheridan: Headquarters, Chicago, Ill.

Ninth Cavalry.—Lieutenant-Colonel Wesley Merritt, Special Inspector of Cavalry, was Jan. 3 ordered to proceed via Camp Douglas, U. T., to Missoula Valley, M. T., and to Hell Gate Pass, if he thinks it necessary, on business connected with the public service relative to which he will receive special instructions.

Fifth Cavalry.—The leave of absence granted Second Lieutenant Robert London (Fort Gibson, I. T.), was Jan. 3 extended one month.

Eighth Cavalry.—Captain Andrew P. Caraher (Fort Garland, C. T.), will, owing to his physical condition, proceed to Pueblo, C. T., and thence by rail to San Antonio, Texas. On arrival at the latter place, he will report to the commanding general, Department of Texas, for assignment to duty pending the arrival of his company in the Department, when he will be directed to join it.

DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF.

Brigadier-General C. C. Augur: Headquarters, New Orleans, La.

Thirteenth Infantry.—Captain W. M. Waterbury was ordered Dec. 24 to inspect in New Orleans certain stores, clothing, camp, and garrison equipage for which First Lieutenant J. A. Olmsted, R. Q. M., is responsible.

Adjutant-General's Department.—Major E. R. Platt, A. A.-G., was Dec. 29 relieved from further duty in the Department of the Gulf, and will proceed to Fort Leavenworth, Kas., and report to the commanding general, Department of the Missouri.

Key West Barracks.—A General Court-martial was ordered to meet at this post, Jan. 17, 1876. Assistant Surgeon J. Y. Porter, U. S. Army, and the following officers of the Fifth Artillery were detailed for the court: Major Richard Arnold; Captains F. L. Guenther, Charles C. McConnell; First Lieutenants A. W. Vogdes, T. R. Adams; Second Lieutenant J. R. McAuliff. Second Lieutenant James C. Bush, Judge-Advocate.

Ordnance Department.—To enable the Chief Ordnance Officer of the Department of the Gulf, to comply with instructions from Division Headquarters, and to bring to the attention of the Ordnance Bureau any defects in the new service arm that may be developed by firing, all officers serving in the Department of the Gulf who have, or may hereafter have in their possession, rifles, carbines, or pistols, calibre .45, which have swelled, burst, or been otherwise rendered unserviceable in firing, were ordered Dec. 29, after a Board of Survey has fixed the responsibility for such damage, to send quarterly to Department Headquarters, invoiced to the Chief Ordnance Officer, the damaged part or parts, accompanied by a complete report, giving as far as known, the probable cause of damage and such information as will lead to the detection and correction of the defect. Samples of defective .45 calibre cartridges should also be sent, stating particularly date of manufacture.

DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA.

Brig.-General Alfred H. Terry: Headquarters, St. Paul, Minn.

First Infantry.—Leave of absence for one month, on surgeon's certificate of disability, was Dec. 27 granted Captain G. S. Gallupe (Fort Randall, D. T.), with permission to go beyond the limits of the Department.

Leave of absence for one month was Dec. 31 granted First Lieutenant R. G. Heiner, First Infantry (Fort Randall, D. T.), with permission to apply through the proper channels for an extension of five months.

Twenty-second Infantry.—The verbal leave of absence for twenty-six days granted Lieutenant-Colonel E. S. Otis, A. A. I.-G. of the Department, on the 1st December, was Dec. 28 confirmed. Dec. 30 he was ordered to Sioux City for the purpose of inspecting accounts of disbursing officers.

Condemned Stores.—In future when condemned public stores are ordered to be sold by auction at posts in the Department of Dakota, and the bids received for them are merely nominal, the post commander will cause the officer responsible to bid them in for the Government, suspend the sale, and report the facts to Department Headquarters for further orders.

Second Cavalry.—Leave of absence for one month was Dec. 31 granted Second Lieutenant L. H. Jerome (Fort Ellis, M. T.), with permission to apply through the proper channels for an extension of three months.

Military Reservation.—The following description of a military reservation at Fort Abraham Lincoln, D. T., declared by the President under date of Dec. 17, 1875, as a substitute for that heretofore declared by Executive order of Feb. 11, 1873, is published for the information and guidance of all concerned: Taking as the initial point, the south-west corner of the reservation described in G. O. No. 60, dated Headquarters Department of Dakota, St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 13, 1872, a line shall be run due south to the right bank of Buck creek, or Little Heart river; thence eastwardly along the right bank of said stream to its junction with the Missouri river; thence up the right bank of the Missouri river to a point due east of the beaver dam on Beaver Dam Creek; thence due west to the meridian

of the initial point; thence due south to the point of beginning. In addition to the above described reservation, the island in the Missouri river known as Sibley's Island, is declared and reserved as a portion thereof. The commanding officer of Fort Abraham Lincoln is ordered to mark initial point and the south-west and the north-west corners of this reservation by monuments of cut stone one foot square and four feet in length, and firmly imbedded two feet in the ground, having the letters U. S. cut and printed in black on one of the inner faces and the letters Mil. Res. similarly inscribed on one of the outer faces of each monument.

DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI.

Brigadier-General John Pope: Headquarters, Fort Leavenworth. **Quartermaster's Department.**—Captain A. J. McGonnigle, having reported in person at Department Headquarters, in compliance with instructions from Headquarters District of New Mexico, was ordered Dec. 24 to join his station in the Department of the Gulf.

A Board of Survey was appointed to meet at Fort Leavenworth, Kas., Dec. 28, to fix the responsibility for a deficiency in quartermaster stores, for which Captain C. H. Hoyt, A. Q. M., U. S. Army, Depot Quartermaster, Fort Leavenworth, Kas., is responsible. Detail for the board: Captain W. M. Dunn, Jr., Second Artillery, A. D. C.; Capt. C. S. Hsley, Seventh Cavalry, A. D. C.; First Lieutenant W. J. Volkmar, Fifth Cavalry.

Camp Supply.—In accordance with instructions contained in endorsement from W. D., A. G. O., Dec. 17, 1875, a Board of Survey was Dec. 27 ordered to convene at Camp Supply, I. T., on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 1876, for assessing the money value of twelve mules, the property of the United States, for which a Court of inquiry, convened from Department Headquarters, holds Captain C. W. Hotsenpiller, Nineteenth Infantry, responsible. Detail for the board: Major G. A. Gordon, Fifth Cavalry; Captain E. B. Kirk, Assistant Quartermaster, U. S. Army; Second Lieutenant A. McC. Guard, Nineteenth Infantry.

Ninth Cavalry.—First Lieutenant John Conline, having reported at Department Headquarters, was Dec. 27 granted leave of absence for ten days.

Fort Leavenworth.—The following named military prisoners, entitled to an abatement of five days per month for continuous good conduct, were discharged from the U. S. Military Prison: Frank Coleman, Dec. 28, 1875; John McCarthy, Dec. 31, 1875; Frederick Roubel, Dec. 31, 1875.

Medical Department.—Assistant Surgeon H. S. Kilbourne, U. S. Army, was Dec. 29 relieved from duty at Fort Gibson, I. T. He will proceed without delay to Fort Hays, Kas., and report to the commanding officer of that post for duty.

S. O. No. 119, c. s., from Headquarters District of New Mexico, assigning Assistant Surgeon Robert E. Smith, to duty at Fort Craig, N. M., was Dec. 27 revoked, and he is ordered to report to the commanding officer Fort Bayard, N. M., for assignment to duty as post surgeon of that post.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PLATTE.

Brigadier-General George Crook: Headquarters, Omaha, Neb.

Quartermaster's Department.—The Acting Assistant Quartermasters in the Department of the Platte, who hold, on memorandum receipts, reconnoitring instruments for which the chief engineer officer of the Department is responsible, were Dec. 27 directed to examine the odometers and prismatic compasses in their possession and to send, by express, without delay, to the chief engineer officer of the Department, such of them as are unserviceable or in any way in need of repairs.

Medical Department.—Hospital Steward Luke Lavery, U. S. Army, was Dec. 27 ordered to report at Fort Hartsuff, and Hospital Steward Charles endy, U. S. Army, now at North Platte, Neb., to Fort Sanders, W. T.

A. A. Surgeon Charles R. Stephens, U. S. Army, was Dec. 30 relieved from temporary duty at Sidney Barracks, and will return to his proper station, Fort McPherson, Neb.

Fort McPherson.—At a meeting of the officers of the post of Fort McPherson, Neb., held at 12 m., on Dec. 25, 1875, of which Major and Brevet Colonel N. A. M. Dudley, Third Cavalry, was chosen chairman, and First Lieutenant J. P. Walker, Third Cavalry, secretary; the following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, It has pleased an all wise Providence to take from his earthly labors, our venerable brother, Chaplain C. L. Hequem-bourg, U. S. Army.

Therefore, be it resolved, That in his death, the Army, has sustained the loss of a faithful officer, a cultivated gentleman, and a zealous Christian.

Res. 12ed, That while we humbly bow to the will of "Him who doeth all things well," we tender to the family of the deceased, our heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement.

Resolved, That copies of these proceedings be furnished the family of the deceased, the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL, and the *Dunkirk Advertiser and Union*.

By order of the Chairman:

J. P. WALKER, 1st Lieut. 3d Cav., Sec'y.

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS.

Brigadier-Gen. E. O. C. Ord: Headquarters, San Antonio, Texas.

Quartermaster's Department.—S. O. No. 242, Department of Texas, extends the leave of absence granted Captain W. T. Howell, A. Q. M., U. S. Army (San Antonio, Texas), seven days.

Ninth Cavalry.—The seven days leave of absence granted First Lieutenant L. H. Rucker, R. Q. M., was Dec. 27 extended ten days (Fort Clark, Texas).

Tenth Cavalry.—Leave of absence for one month was Dec. 27 granted Second Lieut. W. H. Tiffany (Fort Stockton, Texas).

Leave of absence for one month, with permission to apply to the Adjutant-General of the Army for an extension of five months, was Dec. 21 granted First Lieutenant R. G. Smith, Tenth Cavalry, to take effect

when proper in the judgment of his post commander (Fort McKavett, Texas).

Tenth Infantry.—Company H, Tenth Infantry, was Dec. 21 relieved from temporary duty at Fort Duncan, and will return to his proper station (Fort Clark, Tex.) without delay.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE SOUTH.

Major-General I. McDowell: Headquarters, Louisville, Ky.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.

Major-General I. McDowell: Headquarters, Louisville, Kentucky.

Fifth Artillery.—It is announced in Circular, A. G. O., W. D., Dec. 21, 1875, that First Lieutenant O. H. Howard, Fifth Regiment of Artillery, deserted the service of the United States from Fort Trumbull, Conn., on the 9th day of December, 1875. His arrest is ordered wherever found. Lieutenant Howard was appointed from Massachusetts, Sept. 3, 1867, was born in Ware, New Hampshire Co., Mass., and at date of appointment claimed Massachusetts as his residence. He is reported as a defaulter.

Charleston.—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Charleston, S. C., Jan. 3, 1876. Detail for the court: Captain C. W. Foster, A. Q. M., U. S. A., Captain H. F. Brewerton and First Lieutenant W. B. Beck, R. Q. M., Fifth Artillery; First Lieutenant T. D. Maurice, Second Artillery; First Lieutenants B. K. Roberts, Frank Thorp, and Wells Willard, Fifth Artillery. First Lieutenant E. R. Hills, Adjutant, Fifth Artillery, Judge-Advocate.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE ATLANTIC.

Major-General W. S. Hancock: Headquarters, New York.

Officers Registered.—The following officers were registered at Headquarters Military Division of the Atlantic, for the week ending January 4, 1876: First Lieutenant J. A. Haughey, Twenty-first Infantry; Captain T. J. Eckerson, A. Q. M., U. S. Army; First Lieutenant D. D. Wheeler, First Artillery; Second Lieutenant E. A. Godwin, Eighth Cavalry; Lieut.-Colonel H. W. Wessells, U. S. Army.

Pay Department.—The journey on public business, from Detroit to Mackinac, Mich., and return, performed by Major Charles M. Terrell, Paymaster, U. S. Army, between Dec. 14 and 22, was Dec. 28 approved and confirmed.

First Artillery.—First Lieutenant Richard G. Shaw was Dec. 28 attached for temporary duty to Battery I (Graham's), of that regiment, and will proceed with the battery to Fort Warren, Boston Harbor, Mass.

Inspector-General's Department.—Major Elisha H. Ludington, Assistant Inspector-General, U. S. Army, was ordered Dec. 28 to Fort Adams, R. I., to make a special inspection in accordance with the instructions he has received.

Twenty-second Infantry.—Leave of absence for twenty days was Dec. 28 granted Captain Charles A. Webb (Fort Wayne, Mich.).

A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort Wayne, Mich., Jan. 4. The following officers of the Twenty-second Infantry were detailed for the court: Captains De Witt C. Poole, Archibald H. Goodloe; First Lieutenants Platte M. Thorne, R. Q. M., Cornelius C. Cusick; Second Lieutenants Oskaloosa M. Smith, James E. Macklin, John G. Ballance. First Lieutenant Hiram H. Ketchum, Adjutant, Judge-Advocate.

Quartermaster's Department.—Captain James G. C. Lee, A. Q. M., U. S. A., was Dec. 30 ordered to make an inspection of the quarters at Fort Knox, Bucksport, Me., occupied by the Ordnance Sergeant in charge, with a view to ascertain definitely whether new quarters are necessary for him.

Medical Department.—The commanding officer Madison Barracks, New York, was Dec. 30 authorized to hire a citizen physician for the service of his post, during the sickness of Assistant Surgeon Rose.

Hospital Steward T. R. Huston, U. S. Army, was Dec. 30 relieved from duty at Fort Independence, Mass., and will proceed, without delay, to Fort Trumbull, New London, Conn., and report to the commanding officer for duty at that post.

Nineteenth Infantry.—Captain John S. Wharton, A. D. C., was Dec. 30 ordered to Washington, D. C., in charge of Captain Wyllis Lyman, Fifth Infantry, with whom he will report in person to the Adjutant-General of the Army. Corporal Joseph Creed, General Service Detachment, will accompany Capt. Wharton.

Fort Gibson.—Orders have been transmitted by General Cowen, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, to Muskogee, I. T., dismissing the Indian agent at that agency, Major G. W. Ingalls, and requiring him to turn over his office and papers to Major Upman, of Fort Gibson, I. T. The charges against Major Ingalls are general dissatisfaction with his management of business, an unwarranted and meddlesome interference in the politics of the Territory, and undue favoritism in the appointment of assistants, seven members of his family or other close relatives being among the number he has given position under him. Nothing whatever of a criminal or dishonest nature is alleged against Major Ingalls. The charges of nepotism and partisanship might have been overlooked had they not supplemented the general charge of bad management of his agency and its affairs. Major Ingalls is from Springfield, Ill., and was appointed at the instance of the Baptist church under the allotment of his designation to that denomination. His successor will be a gentleman of the same faith, now a resident in St. Louis.

Eighth Infantry.—General Kautz, Lieut. Anderson, Mrs. Kautz, and Miss Kittie Hitchcock returned on Friday evening, Dec. 10, from a visit to Tucson and posts in the southern portion of the Department. The Eighth Infantry Band gave them a serenade on their arrival home.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE PACIFIC.

Major-Gen. J. M. Schofield: Headquarters San Francisco, Cal.

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA.

Fourth Artillery.—Captain John Mendenhall was detailed to command the funeral escort to the remains of Brevet Brigadier-General Charles H. Morgan. The escort consisted of one company of the Fourth Artillery from Alcatraz Island and the three companies of the Twelfth Infantry at Angel Island, and the band of the Twelfth Infantry. The funeral services took place Thursday, Dec. 23, commencing at Alcatraz Island and concluding at Angel Island.

DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA.

Brevet Major-General August V. Kautz: Headquarters, Prescott.

A despatch from Tucson says that three companies of United States Cavalry made a forced march to San Rafael, Arizona, but, finding that all the armed bodies had passed into Sonora, Mexico, they returned and reported that Pesquiera's troops while in Arizona acted badly, taking stock and grain without payment. The revolutionists, on the other hand, scrupulously respected the rights and property of all persons. There appears to be much excitement in Arizona because of alleged violations of their territory, by the revolutionary party, who are seeking to overthrow the Pesquiera government, as well as by the government itself.

Indian Scouts.—The following appointments are made in Company B, Indian Scouts, to date from Nov. 1: Privates Nos. 1, 11, 21, and 31, to be Sergeants. The promotion made in Company A, Indian Scouts, by the company commander, is confirmed, to date from Nov. 6: Private Dead Shot, to be Corporal, vice Batalish, promoted.

Medical Department.—Assistant Surgeon George McC. Miller, was Dec. 14 detailed as a member of G. C. M. at Camp Grant, A. T., Dec. 20.

Assistant Surgeon R. L. Rosson, now en route to the Department of Arizona, was Dec. 11 assigned to duty at Camp Lowell, A. T. Assistant Surgeon Henry Lippincott, to Fort Whipple, A. T.

Pay Department.—Major James R. Roche, Paymaster, was Dec. 11 ordered to pay the troops stationed at Camps Lowell, Bowie, Grant, and Apache, A. T., to include the muster of Dec. 31.

Sixth Cavalry.—The verbal instructions of Nov. 8, of the Department commander to First Lieutenant George S. Anderson, A. D. C., to accompany him on a tour of inspection, were Dec. 13 confirmed.

Leave of absence for one month, was Dec. 14 granted First Lieutenant H. M. Kendall, Sixth Cavalry. First Lieutenant H. P. Perrine and Second Lieut. Thomas B. Nichols, Sixth Cavalry, were same date relieved from duty as members of G. C. M. at Camp Grant, A. T.

Camp Grant, A. T.—A General Court-martial was ordered to meet at this post, Dec. 21. First Lieutenant F. T. Adams, Eighth Infantry, Judge-Advocate, and the following officers of the Sixth Cavalry were detailed for the court: Captains Daniel Madden, T. C. Tupper; First Lieutenants L. A. Abbott, Henry P. Perrine; Second Lieutenants Thomas B. Nichols, John A. Rucker, and Timothy A. Touey.

Fort Whipple, A. T.—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at this post, Dec. 14, 1875. Detail for the court: Captains E. C. Woodruff, Twelfth Infantry, Adam Kramer, Sixth Cavalry; First Lieutenant E. B. Savage, Eighth Infantry; First Lieutenants H. P. Perrine, Sebree Smith, H. P. Kingsbury, and Second Lieutenants Austin Henely, Thos B. Nichols, Sixth Cavalry. First Lieutenant G. E. Overton, Sixth Cavalry, Judge-Advocate.

Subsistence Department.—A Board of officers was appointed at Camp Lowell, A. T., Dec. 23, 1875, to report upon the condition of 32,700 pounds of contract flour, received from contractor Sept. 7, 1875, and reported by Board of Survey as damaged and unfit for issue. Detail for the board: Captain James H. Lord, A. Q. M., U. S. Army; First Lieutenant H. F. Winchester and Second Lieutenant Robert Hanna, Sixth Cavalry. A Board of Survey to consist of—Major James R. Roche, Paymaster, U. S. Army, and Captain J. H. Lord, A. Q. M., U. S. Army, was appointed at Tucson, A. T., Dec. 27, 1875, to investigate the delay by the contractor on route No. 1, in a shipment of public stores from Tucson to Camp Goodwin, A. T., per Bill of Lading, dated Sept. 11, 1875, and to ascertain and report whether the delay is a just cause for a stoppage against the contractor, under Article XI., of his contract.

BILLS BEFORE CONGRESS.

H. R. 184, to restore appointments and promotions in the Pay Department of the Army, enacts that so much of section 1194 of the revised statutes as applies to the Pay Department of the Army is hereby repealed, and the rank of paymaster-general is hereby restored to the grade of brigadier-general, and the rank of the appointee under this act shall date from the day he entered on the duties of the office.

H. R. 358, in relation to Army officers who have been commissioned from the ranks, enacts that all commissioned officers in the Army who have been appointed from the ranks shall, in computing their length of service, be entitled to count the time served by them in the ranks as enlisted men: Provided, That this shall in no case affect their rank.

H. R. 16, joint resolution, enacts that the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, directed to cause to be reviewed all the surveys, maps, official reports, and statements applicable to the determination of the distances between each place of shipment of Army supplies and each place of delivery thereof, and to obtain information as to what route was travelled by Government and Government contractors' teams in all cases

where more than one route was practicable; and to cause to be prepared, from the best information and evidence thus obtained, a careful statement of the number of miles all Army supplies were transported between each point of starting and each point of delivery, on routes one and two west of the Missouri River, in 1864 and 1865; and such statement shall be, on motion of either party, competent evidence in any claims now pending in the Court of Claims involving the question of distance of transportation between military posts on said routes.

S. 138, to increase the efficiency of the Navy and to promote the maritime interests of the United States, authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to offer a bounty of not more than eight dollars per ton, to be paid each year for a period of five years, for the construction in the United States of iron steamships of not less than 1,000 tons each, nor exceeding 500,000 tons in the aggregate; and not more than 100,000 tons shall be authorized in any one year, the said ships to be employed exclusively in the foreign trade. Sec. 2. Directs the Secretary of the Treasury to give public notice that proposals will be received for the construction of such vessels, and the first preference shall be given to such proposals as shall be made within the limits specified for the construction of fifty thousand tons upon the Atlantic coast, twenty-five thousand tons upon the great lakes and the Mississippi river, and twenty-five thousand tons upon the Pacific coast. Sec. 3. That the vessels hereinbefore authorized shall be first-class vessels, to be constructed after such plans, models, and specifications as shall have been first approved by the Bureau of Construction and Repairs of the Navy Department; and the Government may at any time purchase or charter said vessels, or require them to carry the mails between the United States and any foreign country, and payment shall be made therefor of such sums as shall be ascertained and determined by five disinterested persons, three of whom shall be appointed by the President of the United States, and two by the owner or owners of any vessel that may be so taken or employed; and the Secretary of the Navy may detail an officer of the Navy, not above the rank of lieutenant, to serve as second officer or officer of inferior position on board of any vessel that may be built under the authority of the first section of this act; and, upon the request of the owner of any such vessel, he may detail an officer of the Navy to serve as commander, if consistent with the public interests. Secs. 4 and 5. That there shall be allowed and paid, under such regulations as shall be established by the Secretary of the Treasury, upon every first-class sailing-vessel of not less than 400 tons burden, hereafter launched and finished, and to be employed exclusively in the foreign trade, including the trade between the Atlantic and Pacific ports of the United States, the sum of six dollars for each and every ton of the registered tonnage of such vessel; and upon every first-class sailing-vessel of not less than 200 tons burden, authorized to engage not more than three months in any one calendar year in the coasting-trade of the United States, the sum of four dollars for each ton of the registered tonnage of any such vessel: Provided, That this section shall not apply to any vessel employed upon the great lakes. Sec. 6. That if the owner of any vessel on which a bounty shall have been paid by authority of either of the two last preceding sections shall desire to have such vessel enrolled and licensed for the coasting-trade, such authority may be granted by the Secretary of the Treasury upon the repayment of the amount originally paid by the Government, after making a deduction of ten per centum for each year that such vessel may have been in service: Provided, That at least fifty per centum of the amount originally paid shall be refunded to the Government. Sec. 7. That for the period of five years there shall be allowed and paid to the owner or owners of any vessel engaged in the cod or mackerel fishery upon the Atlantic Ocean or its coasts the sum of four dollars per ton on the registered tonnage of such vessel: Provided, That no payment shall be made on account of any vessel that has not been so employed for at least four months of the calendar year. Sec. 8. That vessels of the United States employed in the foreign trade or in the fisheries may purchase ship-stores, supplies, and outfit, not including articles for the repair or running of such vessels, in bond, and without payment of duties, under such regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury. Sec. 9. That vessels hereafter built by the Department of the Navy for open sea service shall not exceed 1,000 tons each according to the method of measurement now observed by the said Department.

H. R. 135, to transfer the office of Indian Affairs from the Interior Department to the War Department, enacts, that from and after the first day of July, 1876, the Secretary of War shall exercise the powers, now exercised by the Secretary of the Interior, in relation to Indian Affairs, and shall sign all requisitions for the advance or payment of moneys out of the Treasury on estimates or accounts, subject to the same adjustment or control now exercised on similar estimates by auditors and comptrollers of the Treasury, or either of them. Sec. 2. That the Secretary of War shall make such details of officers of the Army, as may be necessary, from time to time, to administer the affairs of the Indian branch of the War Department. Sec. 3. That commanding officers of the military geographical departments of the Army in which Indian tribes are located or living shall be ex officio in charge of Indian affairs in their respective departments, and shall make such details of officers of the Army serving in their commands as may be necessary, from time to time, to administer the affairs of the Indian service; and such officers shall not be required to give other bonds than are now required of them by law, but shall be held responsible for any neglect of duty or maladministration thereof, and shall be subject to trial therefor by military courts-martial, according to the rules and articles of war; and the provisions of this section shall be applicable to all officers of the Army charged with

duties under this act, so far as responsibility for neglect of duty and maladministration thereof is concerned. Sec. 4. That nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize an increase in the number, rank, pay, or allowances of officers of the Army in excess of that now provided by law, nor shall its provisions be applicable to officers on the retired list of the Army. Sec. 5. That all contracts for supplies or transportation connected with the Indian service shall hereafter be made in the same manner and, as far as practicable, at the same time provided for supplies and transportation for the use of the Army. Sec. 6. That the Secretary of War shall be authorized to withhold all special licenses from traders, and, under regulations to be by him prescribed, provide the times and places at which all traders complying therewith may present themselves for bargains, barter, and exchange with the several tribes, according to the laws of the United States regulating the same, and subject to the same rules and restrictions as are prescribed for traders at military posts of the Army. Sec. 7. Abolishes the offices of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, inspectors of Indian affairs, special commissioners of Indian affairs, superintendent of Indian affairs, agent, and subagent in the office of Indian affairs, to cease on the first day of July, 1876, on which date the officers of the Army designated shall assume charge of the duties thereof, and thus become charged with all the duties now imposed by law upon the officers of Indian affairs thus superseded. Sec. 8. That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of War, at as early a day as practicable after the first day of July, 1876, to cause a careful enumeration of all the Indians in the United States to be made; and such census shall thereafter be retaken at his discretion, whenever there may be reasonable doubt as to the number of any Indians in any tribe or tribes; and all issues of rations shall be upon the basis of the number of Indians reported by said enumerations. Sec. 9. That all laws and parts of laws inconsistent with the provisions of this act be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

H. R. 213, to fix the brevet and real rank of officers of the regular and volunteer Army, and for other purposes, enacts, that section 16 of the act approved July 15, 1870, is hereby repealed; and that section 34 of the act approved July 28, 1866, shall be so construed as to confer the same privileges upon officers of the regular Army as were conferred by it upon officers of volunteers. Sec. 2. That hereafter there shall be no distinction, except as to grade and date, between brevet commissions in the regular and volunteer forces, conferred upon officers of the Army, now in active service or retired, for gallant, distinguished, meritorious, or faithful services, but all shall entitle to the same privileges. Sec. 3. That all commissions conferred upon officers of the Army shall hereafter date from the date of the occurrence of the vacancy to which they may be appointed or promoted, whether such vacancy shall be created by act of Congress, or by the ordinary casualties of service; and that the President be authorized to make such changes in the dates of commissions of officers of the Army now in active service, as will, without disturbing the present relative rank of officers in their respective corps and regiments, give to all officers appointed under the authority of the act approved July 28, 1866, the same date of commission. Sec. 4. That in order to remove the great and unjust disparity now existing in the several corps and arms of the service in the matter of promotion, the President is hereby authorized to promote all officers of the medical and pay departments, and of the artillery arm of the rank of major, after thirty years' service, to the next higher grade, or retire them, at their option, from active service: Provided, That the whole number of field-officers of artillery shall not exceed thirty, and that the whole number of field-officers of the medical and pay departments shall not thereby be increased. Sec. 5. That with a view to promote the efficiency of the artillery arm of the service, the President is hereby authorized to remount the several batteries of light artillery dismounted by the War Department in the year 1869; and also to detail, from time to time, subalterns of artillery regiments for instruction in ordnance duties at armories and arsenals. Sec. 6. That the first proviso in section 24 of the act approved July 15, 1870, is hereby repealed; and so much of the second proviso of said section of this act as conflicts with the repeal hereby made is declared null and void.

H. R. 227, to equalize the credits of officers of the Army in computing longevity-allowance of pay, enacts, that on and after the passage of this act, all officers now in the military service of the United States, who may have served as enlisted men in the armies of the United States during the late civil war, and who have since been commissioned, and are still holding such commissions, in the United States Army, shall have credit for, and they are hereby accredited with the time served as such enlisted men, during actual war, in computing their longevity-allowance of pay.

H. R. 35, equalizing pensions of certain officers, enacts that the pension for total disability of passed assistant engineers in the naval service shall be the same as that now allowed passed assistant surgeons; the pension for assistant engineers the same as the assistant surgeons; the pension for cadet engineers the same as the cadet midshipmen.

H. R. 85, authorizing corrections to be made in errors in prize-lists, enacts that in all cases where corrections in the distribution of prize-money have or may become necessary, and in all cases where the names of parties entitled to share in prizes have been or may by error be omitted from the prize-lists, the Secretary of the Navy is authorized to direct the proper accounting officers of the Treasury to correct and pay the same, the former upon the principle that the provisions of the act in force at the date of final adjudication govern distribution, and the latter to receive their proportion of the prizes claimed, the same as all others of like rank and pay who may have been paid, using for such pur-

poses any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

H. R. 263, to provide that the heads of executive departments may occupy seats on the floor of the House of Representatives, enacts that the Secretaries of State, Treasury, War, Navy and Interior, and the attorney-general and postmaster-general shall be entitled to occupy seats on the floor of the House of Representatives, with the right to participate in debate upon matters relating to the business of their different Departments, under such rules as may be prescribed by the House. That they shall attend the sessions of the House of Representatives during the morning hour, immediately on the opening of the sitting on days and days of each week, to give information in reply to questions which may be propounded to them under the rules of the House.

H. R. 373, for the completion and location of the naval monument, appropriates \$25,000 to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Navy, for the purpose of completing the statue "Peace," platform, steps, and circular basin of the naval monument, contracted for by the officers of the Navy with Franklin Simmons, and placing the same on some appropriate part of the public grounds in Washington selected. The Secretary of the Navy, the chairman of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds of the Senate and House, and Frederic Law Olmsted, appointed a committee.

H. R. 36, provides that the President restore to the active list of the Army the name of Captain Edward S. Meyer, of the Ninth Regiment of Cavalry, who was retired for reason of physical disability, resulting from wounds received at the battle of Chancellorsville, from which he has sufficiently recovered to return to active duty, and to assign him to any vacancy in his grade now existing, or which may hereafter occur in any of the cavalry regiments of the Army. And the rank and pay of the said Captain Edward S. Meyer shall be and continue the same as if he had remained in active service.

H. R. 368, provides that the President revoke the order under which Brevet-Major Henry C. Parry, an assistant surgeon in the United States Army, was wholly retired from the service, and to order the case to be reheard before a retiring board.

H. R. 10, provides that the Secretary of War restore to his position with part pay Charles M. Blake, a post-chaplain in the United States Army, who, while suffering in Arizona from a wound and fever received and incurred in the line of duty, and from which he became for some time insane, and was wholly irresponsible, on or about December 29, 1865, make a tender of his resignation to the Secretary of War, and the same was accepted by the President while the said Chaplain Blake was thus sick and entirely unconscious of the said resignation having been tendered.

H. R. 67, provides that in all cases where the records of the War Department contain a charge of desertion against a person regularly enlisted into the military service of the United States in the war of 1861, and said person shall not have had any legal trial upon said charge, by court-martial or otherwise, and satisfactory evidence shall be furnished the proper auditing officer of the United States Treasury Department that the soldier charged as aforesaid subsequently returned to his regiment, and while in the service and in the line of his duty died or was killed, then and in that case it shall be the duty of said auditing officer to disregard said record of desertion, and to pay over to the heirs of said soldier the amount of money to which they would have been entitled had the charge aforesaid never been made.

H. R. 69, reviews and extends the claims for additional bounty under the act of July 28, 1866, and which expired by limitation January 30, 1873, until the 4th day of July, 1878, and provides that all claims for such bounties filed in the proper department after the 30th of January, 1873, and before the passage of this act, shall be deemed to have been filed in due time, and thereupon considered and decided.

Mr. Randall (Dem., Penn.), from the Committee on Appropriations, reported a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to take into immediate consideration the pay and allowances of all officers of the Army, and report whether in any, and if so in what, cases such pay and allowances should be reduced. In connection with it, he said that the Committee on Appropriations desired to make reductions as far as possible, but whenever it sought to reduce the number of those employed, or change their pay, it would do so only after the fullest conference with the committee which had special charge of the subject.

WE see it reported that Generals Jo. Shelby and Bacon Montgomery are trying to arrange through the Mexican minister at Washington for the founding of a colony in that country. Under an offer appropriating half a million dollars for encouragement of immigrants, with all the rights of citizenship upon reaching Mexican soil, and the free privilege of working all lands. It will be strictly co-operative, similar to the plan of the Greeley and other flourishing Western colonies. For the present, headquarters will be established at Sedalia, to be removed to Dallas, Texas, about the 1st of next April, where all parties will concentrate. From thence they will move overland to Mexico. The privilege of carrying arms has been applied for, both as safeguard against hostile Indians during the journey or other belligerent parties. The leaders of this colony contemplate settling in either the States of Sonora, Durango or Chihuahua.

A TRIBUNE despatch dated Washington, December 19, 1875, says: The friends of Fitz John Porter say they have reasons for believing that the Executive authority will take no action on the request of General Porter for a review of his case.

THE NAVY.

The Editor invites for this department of the JOURNAL all facts of interest to the Navy, especially such as relate to the movement of officers or vessels.

VARIOUS NAVAL ITEMS.

The *Franklin* and *Alaska* were at Lisbon, Dec. 8.

The *Lackawanna* was to leave San Francisco for Valjejo, Dec. 27, to await Admiral Almy's orders.

The *Severn* was bid off, at New London, to A. Purvis and Son, Philadelphia, for \$22,100.

A MARINE General Court-martial has been ordered to convene, at Norfolk, on the 12th inst., for the trial of Major James Lewis, of the Marine Corps.

OFFICIAL despatches report the sailing of the *Congress*, from Gibraltar, December 7, for Port Royal, S. C.

The *Juniata* was delayed several days, at Gibraltar, to repair some damages suffered during a gale on the passage from Villefranche.

It is expected that the *Alliance*, at the Norfolk Navy-yard, will be made ready for sea during the present month. The riggers are completing her outfit.

The League Island Naval Station is to be reduced to a captain's command. Commodore Preble will be detached on the 10th inst., and be succeeded by Captain Clark H. Wells.

The *Congress* arrived at Funchal, Madeira, Dec. 12, en route to Port Royal, S. C. After taking in coals she expected to continue her passage, taking the southern route, and hoped to reach Port Royal by the middle of January.

The *Pensacola* arrived at Acapulco, Mexico, Dec. 13, twelve days from Mazatlan. Officers and crew in good health. Affairs are reported quiet in Mexico and Central America. The *Pensacola* expects to reach San Francisco in February.

The Naval Monument, executed by Simmons, the sculptor, will be ready for shipment to the United States in the early part of February. As a law of Congress authorizes this monument to be sent over in a naval vessel of the United States, it will probably be brought home by the *Supply*. She will take no stores to Villefranche, and will require to be ballasted if she is required to make anything like a fair passage from Gibraltar to Civita Vecchia.

The Valjejo Chronicle of Dec. 23d, says: "All of the frames of the *Monadnock* are now up, and also a large portion of the masts. The spectator can now form some idea of the full magnitude of the vessel. It is now prophesied that the launching of this monster, when she is completed, will be one of the finest sights in that line ever witnessed. The Naval Band at the Mare Island Navy-yard gave a concert a fortnight since, which is favorably noticed in the papers of that locality. The receipts from the concert were sufficient to more than pay expenses. Another concert will probably be given in the course of a month or two.

A REPORT has been received from Rear Admiral Reynolds, commanding the U. S. Fleet on the Asiatic Station. That officer reports his arrival, November 27th, on board the flagship *Tennessee*, at the port of Nagasaki, Japan, after a short passage from the port of Shanghai. Affairs are reported as quiet at Peking and Tientsin, the Margary affairs having passed from discussion. Before leaving Shanghai, information was received of the death of Minister Avery, and, as no consular officer was available, Admiral Reynolds announces the detail of Lieutenant H. W. Lyon, of the Admiral's Staff, to accompany the remains of the late minister to San Francisco. The body was then daily expected at Shanghai from Tientsin, whence it would be conveyed by the U. S. steamer *Monocacy*.

THE Commissioners of Charities and Corrections of New York, having had their appropriation cut down, have resolved that the school ship *Mercury* be laid up in ordinary, the boys transferred to the care of the Warden on Hart's Island, and the services of the officers and seamen dispensed with. Only those of the boys who are over sixteen years of age will be retained on the island, it being the intention to distribute those under that age among the various charitable institutions of the city and vicinity. As the department has no further employment for the *Mercury*, for the present at least, the Commissioners favor the idea of putting her at the disposal of some benevolent society that would use her as a school ship.

THE *Scatara* has arrived at Port Royal from Brazil, whither she was sent some time ago, partly as a test of the compound engines with which she was last year supplied, and which were recently repaired, and to correct defects discovered while the vessel was in the service of the parties sent to observe the transit of Venus. It was the ordering of the *Scatara* back to Port Royal, it is now said, that gave rise to the report that the squadron in Brazilian waters had been ordered home for the war that was predicted with Spain. The *Scatara*, when at Para, was visited by the President of the Province, who was received with all due ceremony, and the officers of the ship were invited by him to participate in the celebration of the Emperor's birthday, which was to occur on the 2d of December. Captain Cooke, with a large number of his officers in full uniform, called at the palace on that day, and expressed to his Excellency the deep interest which our countrymen feel in everything connected with Brazil, and particularly in the long life and prosperity of his majesty, the Emperor. At Barbadoes the usual official calls were made and promptly returned. His Excellency Governor Pope Hennessy visited the *Scatara*, and the commanding officer of that vessel and others had the pleasure and honor of dining with him at his residence.

The monitor *Catskill*, which arrived Dec. 30 from Washington at the Norfolk Navy-yard, was in the

dry-dock, which had been prepared, on the 4th of January, for her reception. The *Powhatan* arrived Jan. 3d at the yard from Philadelphia. She fired a salute while entering the harbor, which was returned by the receiving ship *New Hampshire*. The frigates *Macedonian* and *St. Lawrence* were sold at auction Dec. 31, the former for \$14,071 and the latter for \$17,900, making a total of \$31,971. The sale is considered one of the best made since the war, as the prices exceeded the views of old purchasers and the appraised value. The sale attracted purchasers from all parts of the country and the bidding was free. The *Macedonian* was bought by Messrs. Wiggin and Robinson, Boston, and the *St. Lawrence* by Mr. Ed. Stannard, N. Y. The *Powhatan*, it is said by some of the knowing ones, will tow the *New Hampshire* to Port Royal, and by others that she will proceed to Europe to paddle back articles of art, etc., to the exhibition, probably models of ancient naval architecture. The Admiral has transferred his flag from the *Worcester* to the *Hartford*. The former vessel will be placed out of commission, her officers detached and crew paid off. The *Worcester* is not worth repairing, and will probably be disposed of like the *Delaware*. The vessels of the North Atlantic Squadron here at present, are the *Worcester*, *Plymouth*, *Hartford*, *Huron*, *Powhatan*, and the monitors *Lehigh*, *Catskill* and *Montauk*.

At the Brooklyn Navy-yard the force in the construction department and the yards and docks is reduced lower than it has been for more than twenty years. There is not positively force enough to properly look after the vast stores in the yard. Four hundred and ninety men have just been discharged from the construction department in one lot, and in every other department a like reduction has taken place. The frigate *Trenton* has been placed upon the blocks at the dry docks, but no work is being done on her. She was successfully launched on the second attempt on Saturday, Jan. 1st. The decks of the *Delaware*, *Susquehanna*, *Shenandoah* and the edge of the cob dock were crowded with spectators. All the boys from the school ship *Minnesota*, flagship of Vice-Admiral Rowan, had been granted leave by Captain Johnson to see the launch. Everything being in readiness at twelve o'clock, the beams of the forward cradle were sawed in two, and the immense hull started quietly and gently down the ways, moving at first almost imperceptibly, but, gathering headway, she started, when half way down, with increased speed, and finally entered the water with majestic grace and dash. Her progress was successfully checked by an ingenious system of cable warps. Miss Lynch, daughter of Captain Dominick Lynch, of the Navy, broke a bottle of wine over the bow of the frigate and christened her the *Trenton*. After the launch the *Trenton* was towed to the dry dock by the tugs *Catalpa* and *Rocket*. She will be coppered and finished when work is resumed. The launch was superintended by Naval Constructor S. H. Pook and his assistants, Joseph F. Feaster and William Montoyne, aided by Peter Ogilvie, master carpenter. Among the spectators present were Vice Admiral Rowan, Captains Johnson, Braine and Temple; Commanders Meade, Robeson, Hayward, Huntington. Lieutenant-Commander Whiting had charge of the police arrangements. The previous failure to launch the *Trenton* was caused by the bad quality of the grease, and the fact that it was laid on over a damp and frosted surface.

THE Portsmouth correspondent of the New York Herald says of the *Marion* (Jan. 1.): It is now the intention of Captain Bradford to put her into commission the first of next week. This is doubtless the finest craft that ever acknowledged paternity from this river since John Paul Jones stood on its banks to oversee the construction of his pioneer "frigate" *America*. No pains or reasonable expense has been spared in the construction and furnishing of the *Marion* to render her what she is, by a sort of a general understanding or common consent, destined to be—a representative vessel of the United States Navy. Without positive orders, it is thought that she is to proceed to England and France to bring distinguished guests and contributions to the Philadelphia Exhibition, as "part of which" she will herself remain there. So all concerned have been inspired to do their best upon her, and the result is in every way gratifying to all true Americans who have seen her, she taking the place of the old frigate of the same name. Her dimensions are: Length on the load line, 216 feet; length over all, 249 feet; extreme breadth, 37 feet; depth of hold from top of spar deck beam to throat of floors, 19 feet; depth in the clear, between decks, 6 feet; draught of water forward, 15 feet 9 inches; draught aft, 17 feet 6 inches; tonnage, 910 tons; displacement, 1,840 tons. She is ship-rigged, having a total sail surface of 19,541 square feet. She carries no studding sails. I was pleased to see that the bobtailed and crooked style of the British Navy, which was copied too closely by cutting short the masts and spars of our Navy vessels at one time, has not been adhered to in the *Marion*. O, for a return to the "wet sheet and flowing sail" style of the old United States Navy when Perry fought and Cooper wrote. The *Marion* is supplied with eight boats, all of which, like most of her furniture and fittings, were built at this yard. The steam launch especially is a beautiful specimen. The *Marion's* battery consists of one 11-inch Dahlgren pivot gun, six 9-inch Dahlgren broadside guns, one 60-pound Parrott rifle on topgallant fore-castle, two 20-pound Dahlgren howitzers, and four Gatling guns. Her engines and boilers are supplied with all the modern improvements. Her engines were designed and built by the Government at the Washington, Brooklyn and Charlestown yards, and have been

placed in the vessel under the immediate superintendence of Chief Engineer David B. McComb, United States Navy, who is in charge of the steam engineering department of the yard. The frame of the *Marion* is of live oak entirely, planked with white oak and copper-fastened. The materials of all kinds used in her construction are of the very best quality, and it is believed that a better built ship does not float on the world's waters to-day than this. She was rebuilt from plans designed by the Chief of the Bureau of Construction, Chief Naval Constructor Isaiah Hanscom. She was built and launched under direction of Naval Constructor Thomas E. Webb, and completed and fitted out under direction of Naval Constructor Theodore D. Wilcox. Captain Jonathan Young, Equipment Officer of this yard, deserves great credit for the neat and handsome set of rigging with which she is furnished.

NAVY GAZETTE.

REGULAR NAVAL SERVICE.

ORDERED.

Lieutenant-Commander Henry L. Johnson, to assume command of the *Rio Bravo* on the Rio Grande, vice Lieutenant-Commander D. C. Kells, detached and ordered to command the *Mahopac*.

DECEMBER 29.—Commander Albert Kautz, as light-house inspector of the Fourteenth District.

Ensigns E. B. Underwood and Wm. P. Halsey, to special duty in charge of draft of men for service afloat.

DECEMBER 30.—Captain J. H. Russell, to special duty at Washington.

Mate Dennis H. Mahan, to the Supply on the 3d January.

Assistant Engineer Jasper H. Diamond, and Cadet Engineer George B. Ransom, to examination for promotion.

JANUARY 5.—Assistant Engineer George C. Neilson, to the *Wyandotte* on the 15th inst.

Acting Sailmaker John T. Bailey, to the *Vandalia*.

JANUARY 4.—Captain Clark H. Wells, to the command of the Navy-yard, League Island, on the 10th January.

Midshipman W. H. Nostrand, to temporary duty on board the receiving ship *Independence*, at the Navy-yard, Mare Island, and on arrival of Rear-Admiral Almy, to report to him for duty on the North Pacific Station.

Passed Assistant Engineer Jefferson Brown, to the *Manhattan*, at Pensacola, Fla.

JANUARY 5.—Captain R. B. Lowry, as executive officer at the Naval Station, New London, Conn.

Lieutenant-Commander D. C. Woodrow, to report as executive officer of the *Manhattan* on his arrival at Pensacola, Fla.

Ensigns E. B. Underwood and Wm. P. Halsey, to report for duty on board the *Mahopac* on their arrival at Pensacola, Fla.

Ensigns J. P. Underwood and Albert Mertz, to the *Ajax*, at Pensacola, Fla.

DETACHED.

DECEMBER 29.—Lieutenant Charles H. Rockwell, from light-house duty, and placed on waiting orders.

DECEMBER 30.—Paymaster L. A. Frailey, from the duties as relates to the Pay Office at Norfolk, Va., but to remain at the Navy-yard, Norfolk.

Paymaster George E. Hendee, from the Bureau of Provisions and Clothing, and ordered to duty at the Navy Pay Office, Norfolk, Va.

Mate George H. Cooper, from the receiving ship *St. Louis*, and ordered to the receiving ship *Relief*, at Washington.

JANUARY 4.—Commander George H. Preble, from the command of the Navy-yard, League Island, on the 10th January.

Lieutenant-Commander D. C. Kells, from the *Rio Bravo*, and ordered to command the *Mahopac*, at Pensacola, Fla.

Naval Constructor Edward Hart, from the Navy-yard, Philadelphia, and ordered to special duty connected with the Centennial.

JANUARY 5.—Ensign J. C. Cresap, from the Supply, and ordered to the *Manhattan*, at Pensacola, Fla.

Ensign James M. Wight, from the Coast Survey, and ordered to the *Sauger*, at Pensacola, Fla.

PLACED ON RETIRED LIST.

Passed Assistant Engineer Joseph B. Upham, from December 27, 1874.

RESIGNED.

Cadet Midshipman William Morse.

ORDERS REVOKED.

The orders of Passed Assistant Engineer J. P. Kelly to the *Manhattan*, and ordered to resume his duties at the Navy-yard, Portsmouth, N. H.

EXAMINATION FOR PROMOTION.

Assistant Surgeons Paul Fitzsimmons and Thomas H. Streets have passed satisfactory examinations for promotions to passed assistant surgeons.

LIST OF DEATHS.

In the Navy of the United States, which have been reported to the Surgeon-General, for the week ending January 5, 1876.

Martin Welles, first class fireman, December 17, U. S. S. *Sauger*, at Pensacola.

Thomas William Hemmingway, landsman, December 25, Naval Hospital, Norfolk.

Charles Lewis Smith, landsman, December 2, U. S. S. *Franklin*, at sea.

THE NAVAL ESTIMATES.

THE regular correspondent of the *N. Y. Tribune*, writing from Washington, December 30, says: When the Appropriations Committee of the House has stricken from Secretary Robeson's estimates for next year the large items for extra construction and repair, for new ordnance, for unnecessary work in the yards and docks, and for new machinery, the sources from which he hopes to obtain the means for continuing the work of putting the Navy on a war footing, it will have done only half its duty in the matter of enforcing economy in naval expenditures. The building of new ships of war and furnishing them with new machinery and armament, even when the money for doing it has been obtained by deceptive representations of the sums actually needed for the pre-ervation of the Navy from decay, have been by no means the most serious causes of complaint against the management of the Navy Department under the present administration. . . . There is good reason to believe that the money which has nominally been spent on new or essentially new ships has not been economically spent, nor has it been applied in such a way as to secure the best results. Almost any officer who has been stationed at a Navy-yard will testify to the wasteful manner in which money has been used, especially just before elections. The yards are at such times crowded with men unfamiliar with the work they are nominally set to do. They labor at great disadvantage, and are discharged after the election is over, without having learned anything of im-

portance, or earned a tithe of the money paid them. The natural result is, that counting in the cost of such political appointments, work done in our Navy-yards and on our ships of war costs more than similar work in any European country, and very much more than is paid for it by private companies and corporations; and this extravagance and waste will go on, though perhaps in less degree as appropriations are cut down, as long as the present system of making grants of money continues. . . .

The only way to stop this objectionable method of doing business is to require the Secretary of the Navy to submit his estimates in detail, as the estimates for the departments here in Washington are submitted. . . . Our Congress has not been in the habit of fixing the amount even that shall be spent in each Navy-yard, to say nothing of limiting the number of men, the wages they shall be paid, etc., etc. The British estimates do all this and more. Take for instance the cost of their navy-yards and the work done in them. They first give a table of 18 sub-heads, under which the vote of money for dock yards and naval yards will be accounted for, and then enumerate the items under each of these heads for which the money is to be expended in each separate yard. Then there is a separate appropriation for victualling yards, divided under 13 sub-heads, and the items under each of these heads for each yard are given singly. Another separate appropriation is made "for naval stores, for building and repairing the fleet, steam machinery, and ships built by contract." The estimates for this appropriation are divided under 15 sub-heads, and a detailed statement is added of the proposed expenditure, under each of these heads, in each of the yards. The same subdivisions are carried out in the estimates for new works, buildings, machinery and repairs, and indeed for every branch of the naval service. The estimate for contingencies is divided under 28 sub-heads. The Navy estimates for a single year fill 135 pages of an official document of the House of Commons, and these are followed by appendices filling 82 pages more, showing still more in detail the purposes for which the money is required. For instance, one table shows the number of men in each yard engaged on each description of work; another, the number of men of each trade employed. Another is a "detailed statement of the sums required for works under £500 each, taken under the vote for 'new works, buildings, machinery, and repairs.'" Still another gives a full description of every vessel, either building or repairing, the estimated cost of labor and material upon it, the amount of work done upon it at the time the estimate was made, the amount to be done before the end of the fiscal year, the amount of work estimated to be done on it during the next fiscal year, and the number of men employed upon it. If the Appropriations Committee should send Secretary Robeson's estimates back to him, with instructions to make them out in detail, as the British estimates are prepared, both it and the House would then have the data on which to act intelligently.

Such a reform in the system of making appropriations might be carried out in the preparation of other appropriation bills besides that for the support of the Navy. It ought to be attended to at the present session of Congress, while there is plenty of time. Next year the session will be short, and little can be accomplished beyond the passage of the appropriation bills in the form that has been previously established.

(From the Alta California, of Dec. 15.)

THE JAPANESE TRAINING SHIP.

About noon yesterday the Japanese frigate *Tsukuba* steamed into our harbor and anchored off Vallejo street wharf. The visit was not unexpected, but embraces something of a novel nature, inasmuch as it is the largest ship of that nation that has crossed the Pacific. Some years ago we were visited by the *Candimarrab*, a small ship of 292 tons register, which contrasted strangely with the improved and really fine vessel at present in port. The Japanese navy is comparatively a new institution, and dates its standing of any importance within a period of about three years. It consists at present of twelve staunch vessels, four of which are used for training purposes. They have now a well-established naval academy at Tokio, which is governed upon the same principles of instruction as our own Annapolis school. The cadets are placed upon training vessels, where they remain for a period of five years, after which they are assigned to duty upon regular men-of-war. The *Tsukuba* is the largest of the training vessels, and is yearly sent on a cruise abroad. Two years ago she went to China, last year to Formosa, and this is her first visit to the American coast. Upon going aboard the *Tsukuba* there is nothing essentially different to be noticed in her appearance from that of American war vessels, excepting, of course, the officers and crew. She was originally built for the English navy, and was purchased by the Japanese government some five years since. The vessel is built of teak-wood, and the commander's and captain's quarters in the after cabin are neat and roomy. Everything is in regular man-of-war style. The orders, piping to quarters, etc., are after the fashion of our own navy. The accommodations of the junior officers and cadets, on the berth deck, cannot be excelled in neatness; while the hammocks and nettings, lashed fore and aft, put us in mind of the good old days when iron monitors were unknown. She registers 1,033 tons, and has an engine of 200-horse power, manufactured by Humphreys and Tennant, London. She is commanded by Captain T. Y. Ito, assisted by T. Y. Fukumura as Lieutenant. The English instructors are Messrs. T. W. Austin, E. Yeo and W. Woodward. These instructors are detailed from the British navy, by request of the Japanese government, to teach practical seamanship, and are, we understand, a gunner, boatswain and an able seaman, each proficient in his department. They are the only foreigners on board.

Altogether she has 25 officers, 36 cadets, 292 seamen, and 17 mariners. Mr. Austin, the Chief Instructor, informs us that the crew of the vessel are as active and efficient as any white crew. In the gale the heavy armament was the principal cause of the vessel laboring so much, and the tremendous chop sea cost them two boats. First, one was stove up on the side, and immediately after the other boat was swept away. The vessel was under snug sail, and Mr. Austin did not have any fears of her. On the pilot boarding her yesterday he immediately kept away for the entrance, and after getting her headed all right, yards squared, etc., all hands were given instructions to prepare for port, and they immediately put on their neat "man-of-war" costume, similar to that in use in the American Navy. As they approached the land the vessel was covered fore-and-aft with the Japanese, sketching the entrance and every object of interest, and numerous were the inquiries that were made in regard to every prominent object. Off Alcatraz, the corvette saluted the American flag with a national salute, which was promptly returned by the fort. The armament consists of twelve large guns, all on the upper deck, which were manufactured at Kagoshima, Japan. They are made of brass, carry a fifty-pound ball, and are altogether formidable and efficient weapons. In the magazine on the deck below are 130 Snyder's rifles, sixty Smith and Wesson pistols, sixty cutlasses and two six-pound Armstrong field-pieces. The *Tsukuba* left Sinagawa, the anchorage off Tokio, the capital of Japan, situated in Yeddo Bay, on November 6. Her stay in San Francisco will extend to about one month, during which season she will visit Mare Island Navy Yard and other points of interest in this vicinity. The officers and crew were desirous of going also to the Atlantic coast, but for some reason the Japanese government refused consent to this voyage at present. All on board are in excellent health, and the vessel appears to have been handled in a thorough and seaman-like manner. From here she will return to Japan, touching at Honolulu on her way home. Truly, the world moves, and Japan may yet be destined to be an important naval power upon the Pacific.

THE London *Naval and Military Gazette* says of Commodore Ammen's proposal for a marine ram: "The Ammen ram is to be 175ft. long, with 20ft. beam. For forty feet on each side of the centre of the vessel it will be symmetrical, and beyond this the ends taper, enclosed by parabolic curves, fore and aft. An outer and an inner plating of iron will protect the vessel, and a small 6in. steel-plate turret in the centre will form the double purpose of pilothouse and protection to the chimneys. The usual draft of water is put at eleven feet, but it is proposed, if necessary, to sink the vessel two feet lower by water-ballast, so as to show only five feet of the vessel out of water during a ramming encounter. The estimated weight of the ram is 804 tons, and the displacement 1,275 tons. The engines are to have a high speed, and at twelve knots it is calculated that such a ram would deliver a blow equal to 7,920 tons. It will be seen that the Ammen ram is a ram, and nothing else. She would carry no guns, and only a few rifles for her small crew. In fact, she would be a steamspot, making up for deficiency of speed by weight of metal. But we have to consider what would be the effect of the impact of a force of 480 tons upon a body three or four times that weight, at given angles; whether the marine ram itself would be unsinkable or indestructible, and whether it would, in a naval combat, ever have a chance given to it of dealing the fatal blow, if fatal it would be. These are all interesting problems, and Commodore Ammen does not stay to test them. He contends, however, that if rams on his principle will, in collision, sink armor-plated, gun-bearing ironclads, 'it is plain that no nation will continue to build them.' We suppose he means for purely destructive purposes, as such engines would be useless as cruisers or coast-protecting vessels, however greatly we might multiply their weight and engine-power. The ship-gun, as it should be called, would not, he is compelled to admit, constitute the naval security of any power at sea, and so they are only to be recommended as against ironclads which are not rams, as they would be disadvantaged in a contest against gun-bearing rams, and might be exploded by one well-planted shell. The idea is novel, and it shows us how closely our American cousins follow the naval controversies on this side of the Atlantic."

THE Washington correspondent of the N. Y. *Times*, Dec. 24, says: "Secretary Belknap has gone West. The Legislature of Iowa meets next week, and as he is a candidate for Senator, his departure and the canvass are naturally connected. Gen. Belknap's friends are confident he will be elected. Iowa people who have been heard from generally have the same view, with the modification that there might be so close a contest between the leading candidates as to make the choice necessary of some one not yet mentioned. It has been frequently stated that Gen. Belknap's election would cause a vacancy in the Cabinet. This is not the fact, as he would not go into the Senate till the 4th of March 1877, when Gen. Grant's term as President will have expired." The Tucson, Arizona, *Citizen* says: "If Secretary Belknap desires a seat in the Senate, we think the State of Iowa could not make a better selection. Here upon the frontier, the real seat of war since the rebellion, we have had opportunities to become somewhat familiar with his administration of the War Department, and we have found him a prompt, intelligent, just and resolute officer with ample executive ability. His robust and energetic nature has shown itself in a reasonable disregard of red tape and routine, and he has enforced his orders and decisions with vigor and practical good sense. His record in connection with the complex duties and responsibilities of one of the great departments of Government, fully

warrants the belief that as Senator of the United States, he would do honor to his constituents and to the country at large; and by active, conscientious and fearless service, add to the reputation he has already made as a public man.

GENERAL Logan is announced to be opposed to the reduction of the Army, and thinks it not large enough now for the work it has to do, but he wants to consolidate the Ordnance, Commissary and Quartermasters' Departments, which, he thinks, would effect an important saving. He says he has not been well enough to consult with the members of his committee about the recent Army nominations. But, in other quarters there is some opposition to the confirmation of Major Macfeely to be Commissary upon General Sheridan's staff, because the promotion was made over the heads of his seniors, and in violation of Army routine. Another prominent military appointment, that of Major Maynadier to be Paymaster, was shelved by the Military Committee last session. The other Army nominations have been confirmed.

COLONEL and Brevet Major-General Thomas (retired), was recently seized with a paralytic stroke while walking near the Treasury Department in Washington and fell to the pavement. He was placed in a carriage and removed to his residence. Gen. Thomas is well known for his services during the war in connection with the Quartermaster's Department from which he retired with the rank of Colonel and A. Q. M. General.

THE English journals are discussing the question of compulsory service. Common sense will some day reason in this fashion, argues *Broad Arrow*: "If it costs us eighteen millions to produce an army of 300,000 men, by a mixed voluntary and involuntary system, and we could obtain one twice the strength for the same money on the involuntary plan, what is the use of our continuing to pay twice the sum per head for the gratification of a sentiment which has gone to pieces in the case of the Militia? Rich as we may be now, we shall not always be willing to pay for a standing as distinct from a national army, and it will be considered improvident to pay the money twice over for one and the same thing. When want of men ceases to tell, as it is telling now, it is want of money will make us less squeamish. Economy, the want of careers, healthy patriotism, and the lessons others are teaching us, all combine to make our present makeshifts tentative exercises in the direction of genuine obligatory service."

BOTH parties in the Franco-German war accused the other of using explosive rifle bullets. An article in the London *Lancet*, by Dr. Seuffeleber, a German surgeon, contradicts the truth of any such allegations, and explains their origin by the effect of modern small arms and the great force of propulsion and impact which their projectiles exhibit, and causes them to split up into fragments and sharp particles more easily than the round balls of old did. The fights in the French vineyards and the skirmishes between the walls of the French villages favored the breaking up of stray bullets on the stones against which they struck. The superiority of the latter weapon in this respect over the old needle-gun of Dreyse and the French *tabatiere* converted on the Snider principle was very evident, and the new Gras rifle appears in its perforating force superior to the Mauser, the Worder, and the Russian Berdan rifles. The recent war proves that 90 per cent. of the killed and wounded were injured by rifle bullets. Dr. S. agrees with our own small arms commission in the opinion that the magazine loader will be the arm of the future.

THE *Bulletin de la Réunion des Officiers* gives some information respecting the Egyptian Army. It consists, at present, of 18 regiments of Infantry, 3 battalions of Light Infantry, 4 regiments of Cavalry, 2 regiments of Field Artillery, 3 regiments of Garrison Artillery, and 1 battalion of Engineers. The 18th Regiment of Infantry is not yet complete. Each regiment consists of 3 battalions, each battalion of 8 companies. In peace the paper strength of a company is 90, but in reality there are only between 50 and 60 men. On a war footing the company numbers from 150 to 200 men. The Infantry are armed with the Remington rifle. A Cavalry regiment is organized in peace in 2 squadrons of Lancers and 2 of Carbineers. On the breaking out of war 2 squadrons of Carbineers are added to each regiment. The peace establishment of a squadron is 100 and horses, the war establishment is 147 of all ranks, but the number of horses is not given. A regiment of Field Artillery in peace consists of 12 batteries of 4 guns each. In war the number of batteries is increased to 16, and that of guns to 6. The guns are breech-loaders, some being 4-centimetre La Hettes, and others 10-centimetre pieces. In addition to the above there are 2 disciplinary battalions and 6 companies of workmen. Every Egyptian, except the inhabitants of Alexandria and Cairo, is liable to military service, each province furnishing a contingent proportion to its population. Exemption can, however, be legally purchased, and favor dispenses many. Besides the Active Army, with its Reserves, there are foot and mounted Gendarmes—8 local regiments, which receive high pay on condition of arming, clothing, and feeding themselves and elect their own officers—and the Bedouin Cavalry.

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U. S. ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

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ARMY REDUCTION.

WE have hitherto looked at the question of
Army reduction (in the wholesale fashion
foreshadowed in the SPRINGER resolutions), solely
on the grounds of advisability and desirability. We
have shown in a former article that, even admitting
the entire truth of every accusation made against the
Army (officers and rank and file), by its bitterest
enemy, the reduction proposed could in no possible
way help matters, but would most probably aug-
ment the evils complained of in the small force left.
We have not deemed it necessary to do more than
exhibit in the form of a syllogism, the monstrous
fallacy which says:

Major Premise.
The officers and soldiers of our Army are so devoid of a com-
mon interest as to be useless to the country.

Minor Premise.
An officer who resigns and a man who deserts are equally
criminal.

Conclusion.
Therefore, we should reduce the Army to 10,000 men.

This, fairly stated, is the *Sun's* argument; and the
animus of the SPRINGER resolution. It only needs
to be stated to refute itself.

We have next, by a careful comparison of the tone
of the press from all parts of the country, presented
to our readers the verdict of public opinion on the
contemplated step. Journals of importance from
every section of the Union, that touch on the
subject in any manner, have been liberally quoted
from, without suppression or emendation of fact or
argument, and the result presented. One curious
fact appears therein, that the articles as written came
almost without exception from papers in sympathy
with the dominant party in Congress, and that the
opinion, wherever expressed, was adverse to the re-
duction proposed. Various rumors were circulated
as to what was going to be done by the Military
Committee of the House, all sorts of speculations
were indulged in, but wherever any opinion was ex-
pressed, it was invariably adverse to the SPRINGER
proposition. The Republican journals, so far as we
have seen, seemed to fight shy of the topic, and to be
afraid of expressing an opinion, possibly for fear of
making it a party question in any shape. The fact,
therefore, that the expression of opinion comes chiefly
from the party that has always shown itself most
tenacious of civil rights, and most jealous of Army
influence, is a happy indication that the question of
Army reduction may possibly be looked on, outside
and inside of Congress, from a purely economic point
of view, unmixed with politics. Had it been other-
wise, it is quite probable that Republican politicians
would be only too ready to sacrifice the Army to
political necessity, by voting with the Democrats for
its reduction, if the latter seemed to desire the mea-
sure. The readiness and unanimity of passage of
the SPRINGER resolution in the House, indicated the
indifference of politicians to the interests of a force
from which they can expect nothing in the way of
political influence or assistance. The equal unanimity

of public opinion, as expressed in the public journals,
against the proposed change on general grounds,
leaves us free to discuss it on the only just and proper
basis, that of public economy. On that basis alone
the Army desires to be judged; on that basis let us
examine it.

The present proportionate strength of our Army to
the population of the country, as shown by the cen-
sus of 1870, will show that if properly managed the
force is by no means adequate to the wants of an or-
dinary community, if we are to take any other nation
in the civilized or uncivilized world for a standard.
The experience of our first century of national life
has moreover demonstrated that nothing but igno-
rant conceit can continue to cherish the delusion that
our nation is the only one exempt from the working
of universal laws and the experience of history, in
regard to liability to war.

In 1870 the entire male population of the United
States was 19,493,565, and the number liable to mili-
tary duty (18-45 years), 7,570,487; while the total
number of male citizens was 8,425,941. Our present
military force, therefore, being 25,000 strong, includ-
ing the retired officers, staff, Engineer Corps, Signal
Corps, and Military Academy, now draws from the
total male population, 1 in 753; from the males liable
to military duty, 1 in 292; from the male citizens 1
in 335.

This, compared with the armies of Germany, re-
serves and all, (about 1 in 90), Russia (about 1 in 70),
France (about 1 in 68), Italy, Austria, Sardinia and
Mexico, seems a pretty light tax on the industry of
the country, to say no more.

Let us next examine how much of this force be-
longe to the active, how much to the non-combatant
Army. The Adjutant-General's report gives us the
figures as follows:

Non-Combatant Force.	
Staff.....	1,453
Non-commissioned staff unattached.....	235
Military Academy, Professors, 8; Ca- dets, 290.....	298
Detachments at West Point.....	225
Signal Service.....	454
Retired List.....	294
	2,979
Active Force.	
Cavalry, Artillery, and Infantry.....	21,098
Recruits.....	1,603
Indian Scouts.....	235
	22,936
Total force.....	25,915

The expense credited to this force is as follows:

Appropriations for 1875-6.....	\$40,630,657
Divided thus—Signal Service.....	\$694,653
River and Harbor Works.....	7,227,250
War Department, Bounties, etc 3,404,900	
	11,326,803
Leaving for military establishment.....	\$29,303,854
From this deduct:	
Arsenals and Fortifications.....	\$1,242,165
Staff.....	2,529,954
Engineering Corps.....	364,446
Ordnance Corps.....	1,097,434
Military Academy.....	402,551
	5,636,560

We thus find cost of active Army to be.....	\$23,667,294
Thus divided:	
Cavalry.....	10,567,290
Artillery.....	3,486,000
Infantry.....	9,224,564
Indian Scouts.....	155,090
Miscellaneous.....	234,370
	\$23,667,294

Of this expenditure credited to the active Army,
\$12,364,710 is disbursed by the Quartermaster Gen-
erals Department; and here is touched the root of
the whole cost of the Army of the United States
as at present constituted. It is in the enormous price
of transportation that the main expense is found,
and this cost can hardly be materially reduced as
long as our troops have to cover such a large ex-
panse of territory, especially in the far west. This
brings us to the present distribution of our Army
throughout the United States, and of how many men
can possibly be spared or the reverse. At present we
have four Military Divisions, those of Missouri, At-
lantic, Pacific and South. Among these the active
Army is thus divided:

Mil. Div.	Commander.	Posts.	Troops.
Missouri,	Lt. Gen. Sheridan.....	95	14,841
Atlantic,	Maj.-Gen. Hancock.....	30	2,044
Pacific,	" Schofield.....	31	3,704
South,	" McDowell.....	19	1,829
		165	22,418

It will thus be seen where our Army is. Eighty
per cent. is on "the plains" and Pacific coast. We
have never heard complaints of the excessive force
stationed there, but very many of its inadequacy
whenever a serious Indian war breaks out. A reduc-
tion to 10,000 men would bring down this force to
8,000 men, leaving two thousand for both the other
military divisions. An analysis of the Quartermaster-

General's expenditures gives the following proportionate cost of the divisions:

Mil. Div. Missouri.....	\$5,087,786
do Pacific.....	2,708,426
do South.....	731,617
do Atlantic.....	560,530

Depots and Arsenals.....	9,087,359
	3,327,351

Total Q. M. Dept.....12,364,710

This leaves a residue of \$11,242,584 for the pay, rations and armament of the active Army. The contrast between the cost of about four thousand men on the Pacific coast and two thousand men on the Atlantic coast is very instructive, and shows how very little can be done by mere legislation to change it. The problem of Army economy in America appears to be one depending on a wise administrative system, and very difficult of solution. Probably the only persons capable of affording such a solution are in the Army itself, and their recommendations are the only ones likely to be perfectly intelligent, as they alone are conversant with all the facts.

Let us now examine, apart from the economic question, how much of our present force can be spared, and whence it can be taken to the best advantage. It is at present stationed as follows:

On the Pacific coast.....	1,078
On the Northern frontier.....	2,709
On the Atlantic coast.....	1,953
On the Gulf coast.....	187
On the Mexican frontier.....	2,335
In the Western Interior.....	10,902
In the Southern Interior.....	2,584
En route to various points.....	695

Recruits.....	22,413
	1,603
	24,016

<i>Active Army</i>	
Military Academy.....	298
West Point detachments.....	225
Signal Service.....	455
Retired.....	294
Unaccounted for (mainly staff).....	627

Total army.....35,915

The posts more than sixty miles from the coast lines are counted here as interior posts. We find from this table that our whole coast line, lake, frontier and all, employs 8,992 men, distributed over 17,368 miles of boundary. Over the whole of this line smuggling is repressed mainly by the military force. On the Mexican frontier our readers and all the world besides, know well what would be the result were our troops withdrawn. As it is, their numbers are inadequate to do more than check the constant current of predatory invasion. Can we spare any of the Army from the coasts?

Next comes the "Great West." Can we spare it from there? What would become of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada, and all the mining States if we withdrew the troops therefrom? A few years ago the mines of Arizona were practically abandoned on account of the Apaches, till the Army, under General Crook, restored peace. There are plenty of Cheyennes, Apaches, Sioux, Arrapahoes, Comanches, and other savage tribes left, all of which are only kept in check by the constant presence of the Army amongst them. Withdraw the Army, and these gentry would be perfectly free to roam about and plunder where they pleased. The miners and citizens might fight them when they chose to fight, but could they follow them all the year long and keep them in check as the Army now does? Could they maintain in constant service a volunteer force of the same numbers as the Army now has, and equally fit for service? If not, there is little doubt that Indian depredations would soon eat up the saving made by reducing the Army and turn the balance over to the other side. We are now paying a non-reducible tax of \$132,549,761 for not having an Army in 1861. This tax consists of \$29,456,216 pensions, and \$103,093,545 interest on debt incurred during the war. Had we possessed an adequate Army in 1861, an Army of the same cost as that now charged to our present Army appropriations, not burdened with bounties and back claims, we should not have to pay this sum now. In 1860 our Regular Army counted 12,931 men; in 1866, 39,545 men. In 1870 it was cut down 10,000 men, counting in 1871, 29,485 men. The result could hardly be said to be favorable as far as *morale* goes, but of that we are not now treating. In 1874, as we all know, came the further reduction, so that it now counts 25,954 men, including signal service and retired officers. The question now recurs, is it possible to reduce it still further, or was the last reduction unwise? It is probable that a calm survey of the facts above recited will lead to the conclusion that if

the expenses of the Army are to be cut down, the very poorest way to do it will be to reduce the force of the active Army itself, for that would effect but little prime saving in transportation, and would cost the country in Indian raids, Mexican raids, smuggling, violations of internal revenue laws in the Alleghany mountain districts, riots and massacres of whites and Indians in the mining districts of the West, international complications with Canada through Fenian raids, many times the amount saved. Let us remember that all these evils are now kept in check solely by the moral influence of our small, overworked, but always reliable Regular Army.

COUNT VON MOLTKE is reported to have sent the following letter, dated Berlin, Nov. 4, to the German Minister at Washington:

DEAR SIR: I thank you for the information you give me, and can only reply that I have never been questioned by any body whatsoever concerning the worth of American generals. But if I had been questioned, such a depreciative judgment as is ascribed to me in the *Herald* would never have fallen from my lips, and all the more for the reason that up to this time I have not been able to form an opinion of the merits of American generals. There is at hand no information concerning the war of secession, such as we, for example, seek to obtain of the Franco-German war, through our General-staff. Nor have I had time to arrive at a fair conclusion by examining carefully the reports from each side, which are apparently colored by sectional feeling. As little as I have allowed myself to pass judgment upon American soldiers and generals, it has not occurred to me to speak of West Point, and if I had opportunity to speak of it, I certainly should not have spoken of it as I am reported to have done in the *ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL* of Aug. 4 (7th), and at greater length in the same journal of Sept. 4. All the statements ascribed to me are without any foundation in fact, and are mere inventions.

The article of the 7th of August, referred to by COUNT VON MOLTKE, was one in which he was reported as saying that "neither side in the civil war in America produced a very distinguished General," "because their field of selection was so limited," being confined on both sides to the graduates of the Military Academy. This assumed system was contrasted most unfavorably with the system of promotion by merit. The whole statement was so absurd throughout that we never supposed that it correctly represented the distinguished soldier to whom it was ascribed. It was sent to us by several officers with the request that we should answer it. We did not do so because we could find no authority for ascribing it to COUNT VON MOLTKE. This fact should have been stated at the time, and it was an injustice to COUNT VON MOLTKE that it was not done, though we could only have given our own impressions in the matter, having absolutely nothing to guide us as to the origin and authority for the reported conversation with the Count. A few weeks later we published a letter and a newspaper extract in which the misstatements of the original article were corrected, and a most decided doubt at the same time expressed as to whether COUNT VON MOLTKE was correctly represented. This is the article of the 4th of September, in which the Count mistakenly says he was reported at greater length. In saying this we assume the authenticity of the letter given above, though we have no better authority for it than we had for the original article of offence, which is its publication through the daily newspapers. We may say, however, that it is not for a moment to be supposed that COUNT VON MOLTKE can be so ignorant of the history of the American civil war and of the character of our military institutions as he was reported to have shown himself to be. He bears far too high a reputation in this country, not only as a military leader, but as a student of military history and a close observer of the military development of other nations than his own, to be lightly charged with ignorance; other than that for which he may be held responsible on the authority of the above letter, in which, as it will be observed, he studiously refrains from committing himself to any opinion different from that which he was incorrectly reported as having expressed.

We publish this week articles on the subject of Army reduction from the *New York Nation*, the *Omaha Republican*, the *Philadelphia Times*, and the *Mobile Register*. These are by no means all that have come to our attention. The *Louisville Courier-Journal*, one of the ablest of the daily journals, is especially pronounced in its opposition to the folly of the SPRINGER resolution, and has published several leading articles on the subject, besides the one copied last week. In one before us it quotes from a speech

made in the House of Representatives, May 28, 1874, by General BANNING, at present Chairman of the Military Committee, in which he recommended the transfer of the Indian and the Pension Bureaus to the control of the Department of War, saying: "all that has been done to the injury of the Indian service comes from speculators and political adventurers. All that has been accomplished of real service, we owe to the Army and the Army officers." And further, that "the most honorable national record—the one least tinged with dishonesty, the one to which we may point with the most pride, is that which gives the history of the Quartermaster, Commissary and Pay Departments in our Regular Army during the late war." The Army may be sure that there are men on the Military Committee who appreciate its services and understand its importance to the country. Reinforced by the expression of sound public opinion which has been aroused, we do not doubt that they will make a report to the House which will convince that body of the folly of allowing itself to be made use of as a bob to a newspaper kite. If there has been any echo in the press to the *Sun's* reckless demand we have failed to find it. We have re-published such newspaper articles on the subject of reduction as have come to us, and they are all of one tenor. These journals cannot, certainly, be accused of partiality for the military service, and it will greatly encourage the Army to see how absolutely convincing the argument against reduction is, and must be, to every unprejudiced mind. It has prejudice to convince as well, but we doubt not that it will succeed in this also.

CONGRESS reassembled after its holiday vacation on Tuesday, the 4th of January. In the House resolutions were adopted directing the Committee on Naval Affairs to investigate the disbursements for the support of the Marine Corps and to inquire into the expediency of abolishing such corps or transferring it to the Army; calling on the Secretary of the Navy for information as to whether any officers of the Navy or Marine Corps over the age of sixty-two years are still retained on the active list, and if so why they have not been retired; calling on the Secretary of the Navy for information as to whether the eight steam vessels authorized by the act of the 10th of February, 1873, have been constructed, and if so what has been their cost; instructing the Committee on Naval Affairs to inquire and report whether any materials belonging to the Government have been fraudulently or wrongfully removed from the Navy-yards, and whether there have been any unlawful combinations for the purchase of the same; also, whether any part of the money appropriated for the construction of the eight steam vessels of war authorized by the act of the 10th of February, 1873, has been misapplied for political purposes or used in any manner to promote the success of any political party, and especially whether any money has been paid to incompetent persons, possessing no mechanical skill, who have been employed in the Navy-yards on the condition, expressed or implied, that they would vote for the nominees of any political party.

A resolution was also adopted directing the several committees having in charge matters pertaining to Indian affairs, military affairs, naval affairs, post offices, public lands, public buildings and grounds claims and war claims, to inquire into any abuses or frauds in the administration and execution of existing laws affecting those branches of the public service, with a view to ascertaining what changes and reformations can be made so as to promote integrity, economy, and efficiency; also, instructing the Committee on Expenditures in the several departments to proceed at once, as required by the rules of the House, to examine into the state of the accounts and expenditures of the respective departments, as to whether all moneys have been disbursed in conformity with the appropriation laws, and what provisions are necessary to be adopted to provide more perfectly for the proper application of the public moneys, and to secure the Government against demands unjust in character or extravagant in amount.

A buncombe resolution was almost unanimously adopted amid laughter on both sides of the House, "recognizing the brave and gallant services rendered by the loyal soldiers to the country in time of its greatest need," and recommending that they have the preference over civilians in public and private employment; also, "declaring that the House is in favor of giving limited pensions to deceased and crippled soldiers, their widows and children, and their dependent fathers and mothers." A resolution afterwards offered directing that the rule be followed in the selection of the employees of the House was most inconsistently but most decisively rejected by a vote of 78 to 108. We publish elsewhere the most important bills so far introduced into Congress affecting the Army or the Navy. They propose some most radical changes affecting every branch of the service, but we must leave their discussion to a more convenient time. The question of the destruction of our Army proposed by the Springer resolution is just now the absorbing topic.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications published under this head. His purpose is to allow the largest freedom of discussion consistent with propriety and good feeling.

FORT D. A. RUSSELL GRAVEYARD.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

Being at Fort D. A. Russell in Wyoming a short time since, we made a visit to the post graveyard to see the graves of two we had known in life. It is situated about a half mile north-east of the post on a gently sloping plateau. It is neatly kept, and is bounded by a picket fence, with quite an imposing arch door facing south. When we were at the post in the early days of '69 the graveyard was directly south of this post, and consisted, we think, of one solitary grave, and its only enclosure was limitless space, and the high points and slopes of the Rocky Mountains. We were therefore much pleased to find the present graveyard defined within space by the neat picket fence above referred to. When we entered the arched gate it was twilight, and we had, therefore, but a short time to pass by the graves; but it was sufficient to examine the graves of our friends, whom we found by the following simple inscriptions: "W. W. Bell, First Lieut. 18th U. S. Infantry, died June 14, 1868; Lieut. Richard Summers, 9th Infantry, died October 18, 1872, age 32." As a tribute to the memory of these officers the following lines are appropriate:

"Sleep! for thy toll is o'er;
Thine idles hath been woe,
And thy hands may be folded evermore—
Lie folded under the sun.
Never thy feet shall be weary now,
Never thy step be slow:
The earth is lying above thy brow,
The waters beside thee flow.

"Sleep! for the day is dead;
The throbbing heart is still,
And the winds go moaning o'er thy bed,
That little grave on the hill.
Sleep! life's bitterness is all past:
And far from thee removed,
Thine aching heart hath found rest at last:
Sleep long and well, beloved."

Lieut. Bell was killed by one of his own men while on a march from Fort Fetterman to the railroad. But the man that fired the fatal bullet survived his victim but a few moments, because the men of Bell's company, who were close by at the time, and by whom he was esteemed, raised their rifles and sent a score of well directed bullets into the body of the cowardly assassin. This, though of the nature of "lynch law," was righteous justice, and was well and timely executed. Had this man been saved from the vengeance of the company, and placed under guard until the first settlement (Laramie City) was reached, the result would have been in those days that the man, the assassin, would have gone off scot free. It is a well known fact and is often recurred to in conversation, that few men who commit murder while engaged with the military, and who are turned over to the civil authorities, are hung. Some town lawyer of eminence, who is well thought of by the community, will espouse the cause of the murderer, and being well acquainted with the jury, will readily convince them after a few rhetorical flourishes of stump oratory, that the cold-blooded and deliberate murderer is not guilty, but on the contrary an injured man. The law which was brought up in Congress a few sessions passed, which proposed to give military courts jurisdiction over murder and crimes of a similar character in time of peace and in isolated districts, was a very essential and necessary measure; and we are confident, that Congress, had it passed the law, would have done good service to the uncivilized portions of the West.

Lieutenant Summers, we have been informed, was a very efficient officer, and was deeply missed, and mourned by his brother officers, who, as a fitting mark of their respect, have erected over his grave a neat monument of marble, bearing the simple inscription above stated.

Should you ever visit the quiet little town of Fort Madison, once a stand point of our much abused little army, and you should be curiously inclined, ask the quiet people about the escape of a military prisoner. They will tell you how this prisoner was shot and killed, and how enraged the sympathetic citizens were—indeed so much so as to threaten "Judge Lynch" on the officer who had rigidly and justly executed his duty. Had this officer done otherwise, bound as he was by his oath and orders to a conscientious performance of duty, he would, upon his return to his post have been tried by a court martial for neglect of duty or disobedience of orders, and gone out of an honorable service with ignominy. But the officer concerned, Lieutenant Summers, could always be relied on for a rigorous and conscientious discharge of duty.

The above case clearly shows that the military are frequently placed in delicate situations with respect to the citizens of our country. But with the enlightened and intelligent of our countrymen, there can and seldom is just cause for opposition or collision. When the military are called out to aid in the due execution of our laws, made by the people of the United States, such as the suppression of illicit distilleries, etc., the citizen should not feel hard or rancorous toward his brother citizen and soldier, because he does his duty, and in a soldier's way, rigorously. But we are sorry to admit that this feeling does exist to a considerable extent, but as we remarked before, not among the educated and enlightened. These and other thoughts entered our mind as we wandered from the sacred enclosure to our camp under the hill. As we walked to our camp we could see through the dim light the spot where "Judge Lynch" held his carnival during night and the dawn of day. This spot is midway between Fort D. A. Russell and the town of Cheyenne, and opposite the

Quartermaster's Depot, "Camp Carling." With in the time referred to "Judge Lynch" and jury had a session, and enforced the judgment of their peculiar and doubtful law. After dawn the following morning, the body of a well known horse thief, and who, the day before, was in the military guard-house, was discovered dangling from a telegraph pole.

The saying was in those days that the city graveyard to our right, whose spectral outline could be dimly seen through the doubtful light, contained the graves of many victims of Cheyenne's first days, all of whom, like the thief on the pole, died with their boots on.

R.

NAVAL TITLES.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR: In the British navy it has long been a source of dissatisfaction that the titles of the officers do not convey a just idea of the importance of their commands, and perhaps it would not be unworthy of the naval committees of the present Congress to give some attention to the matter so far as it concerns the elevation and consequent improvement of our own Service.

Under the Tudor kings, when the English navy first came into existence as an important part of the national force, there was no separation of the officers from those of the land force. The vessels of that day did not require and would not accommodate more than a single company of foot; when a vessel fitted out, a captain with his lieutenants, and company, which became the ship's company, were ordered on board to perform all the military duty, whilst the sailing and navigation of the vessel was entrusted to a sailing master and a few sailors. In the course of time necessity compelled the organization of the navy as a separate branch of the national arms, but the old titles were retained though no longer proper, and captains commanded ships with companies of men a thousand strong. The introduction of steam, of iron-clad vessels, of torpedo-boats, and the improvement or perfection of ordnance and machinery has created a new navy, a most powerful arm either for attack or defence, and its officers should bear titles indicating their real rank and the importance and power of their commands. There can be no more simple or effective way of attaining this end than to introduce into the Navy the Army titles for all grades of officers, giving to each grade the title of its present assimilated rank.

R:

LIFE INSURANCE.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR: For the information of Army and Navy officers who may be considering the subject of life insurance, I desire to make known through your columns the liberal policy of one of the principal life insurance companies in the United States, with reference to Army officers.

In 1865 I obtained a life policy in the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company of Newark, N. J., which was subject to the usual restrictions in regard to latitude, etc. In 1872, being ordered to Florida, I represented to the president of the company that my policy was of no value to me as an Army officer unless it allowed me to live any where within the limits of the United States where I might be ordered for duty. The company thereupon gave me a special permit to serve as a medical officer of the U. S. Army anywhere within the limits of the United States, upon condition that I should make an annual report of the condition of my health; and if I had been exposed to any extra risks, that I should be subject to the payment of an extra premium upon my policy.

In compliance with the terms of this permit, I reported in October, 1873, that yellow fever had prevailed as an epidemic in Pensacola, Fla., and that seventeen cases had occurred at Fort Barrancas (my station). The reply from the company was that my report was satisfactory, and no extra premium was called for. In 1874 I reported that yellow fever had prevailed as an epidemic at the Pensacola Navy-yard, and that two cases had occurred at Barrancas. I again received the reply that my report was satisfactory.

During the past summer, yellow fever prevailed as an epidemic at Fort Barrancas, and I myself suffered an attack of the disease. Upon reporting these facts to the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company, I again received the reply that my report was satisfactory, and no extra premium was called for, notwithstanding the heavy risk to which the company had been subjected.

It is unnecessary for me to state that this communication is made in the interest of officers of the Army and Navy, and not of the company, and is entirely voluntary on my part.

GEO. M. STERNBERG, ASST. SURG. U. S. A.

THOUGHTS ON NAVAL ADMINISTRATION.

BY A NAVAL OFFICER.—CHAPTER IX. (CONTINUED.)

"The nation that controls the sea controls the world."

THE Marine Corps should be paid with, and considered as an integral part of, the Navy, in fact, the police of the Navy, and should be governed entirely by Navy regulations and discipline, both ashore and afloat. Its enlisted force (except the musicians, who should be selected from lads of between 14 and 16 years of age, apprenticed to learn music), should be recruited entirely from young men between the ages of 18 and 26 years, who conform to the required physical standard, and can read and write.

All recruits should be either native born, or, if of foreign birth, have resided ten years in the United States. The term of enlistment should be, as now, five years, and the general system of drill and training in the Corps should be carefully determined by a commission of five competent officers, appointed by direction of the President of the United States. One

of these officers should be selected from the Army, two from the Executive Corps, and two from the Marine Corps of the Navy.

The minimum strength of the Corps in time of peace should be 2,400 men, in three battalions of 800 men each. These battalions to be designated as first, second and third. The third battalion should be composed entirely of the Marine Police, and should constitute the "Reserve" of the Corps.

Each battalion should be divided into eight companies of (in time of peace) 100 men each, designated as Companies A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H. Each company should be subdivided into two "Platoons" of 50 men each, or four "Sections" of 25 men each, the "Section" being the unit of the organization, and the smallest detachment which should be sent afloat in a cruising ship.

Sections and platoons should be numbered thus: Section 1, Platoon 2, Company C, First Battalion, and so on. There will result from this arrangement: 24 Companies of 100 men each, or 48 Platoons of 50 men each, or 96 Sections of 25 men each, which should be amply sufficient for the Service on a peace establishment.

The proposed arrangement of commands, however, may possibly shock the nerves of those officers whose ideas are irrevocably tied to Army organization. But the first and ruling idea connected with our plan, consists in utterly and forever divorcing the members of the Marine Corps from the notion that it is a part or portion of the U. S. Army. Under our proposed system Marine officers may be regarded as simply officers of the Executive Corps, serving on permanent detached service, and, therefore, Majors should command Companies! Captains should command Platoons! and Lieutenants should command sections! Of course, this arrangement is radical; but it is thought experienced Naval officers will appreciate the reasons that suggest the change, when considering the actual nature of the service the Corps is called on to perform, especially when afloat. The apparent increase in expense, so far as the number of officers is concerned, will be shown farther on (when the complements of ships of war and Naval stations are considered) to be no increase at all in the aggregate expenses of the Navy, while the *cadre* is so elastic that, in the event of war, the force of enlisted men in each section, platoon and company, can be doubled at once without requiring a single additional officer! By this system, there should be for each battalion: One Colonel (the Colonel of the Third Battalion, or Reserve, to be the Inspector-General of the Corps), two Lieutenant-Colonels, eight Majors, sixteen Captains, and thirty-two Lieutenants, or 178 officers (including the General Commandant), and 2,400 men in the entire Corps, in time of peace, and 4,800 men in time of war.

The duties which the new system proposed will entail on the Marine officer, when afloat, will serve to keep his time very fully occupied, and he will not be driven, as now, for lack of occupation, to the time-honored resource of sucking his thumbs, in the interval which elapses between the period at which he signs the morning report of the guard, and the period at which the guard is drilled for half an hour on the quarter-deck.

Under the present system these are all, or very nearly all, the actual duties of the commissioned Marine officer on shipboard, and though he himself is not responsible for this lamentable state of things, which is properly chargeable to the ridiculous system which has prevailed ever since the Navy came into existence, the inference to be drawn from this life of almost absolute idleness is obvious.

The Third Battalion, otherwise known as the "Reserve," or Battalion of Marine Police, should be made up by selection from men who have served faithfully for at least three enlistments. Its members should be the picked men of the Corps. None but persons of unblemished character for honesty and integrity should be admitted to its ranks. The "Reserve" Battalion should constitute the Watch and Police force at the Navy-yards and Stations, and its warrant officers and privates should not be required to perform sea-duty under any circumstances whatever.

Masters-at-arms, ship's corporals, and others, now connected with the police force of our vessels of war, should be invariably selected from sergeants and corporals in the Marine Corps, and simply detailed to perform the duties required. A special record of their services should be kept, so as to render them eligible, if deserving, to the grade of roundsman in the Marine Police. These roundsmen to be the warrant officers of the Marine Corps, and entitled to all the privileges hitherto accorded to other warrant officers in the Navy.

Orderly sergeants and quartermaster sergeants of the First and Second Battalions should be retired on reaching the age of 62 years, an equal number of them, however, to have the same privileges, when retired, as the warrant officers of the Marine Police.

It will be perceived, it is thought by experienced and thoughtful officers, who are willing to set aside the petty prejudices and narrow-mindedness of the past, that the system of advancement here proposed (if any system can), holds out the strongest possible inducements to native born Americans of good character to enlist in the Naval Service, while the continuous service system its acceptance involves, is a reality and not a sham.

It is only by adopting some system, at least similar to the foregoing, that we can ever build up gradually, step by step, a personnel at all worthy of the name, or of the splendid traditions of the American Navy. And is not the object well worthy of our best and most earnest efforts?

What has given our country prestige abroad? and what preserved us from foreign intervention a few years since in the midst of a terrible civil war, but the well-won, and equally well-remembered, reputation of

that little Navy, and that handful of daring spirits: Paul Jones and Manly, Hull and Decatur, Perry and Macdonough, Bainbridge and Porter!

Naval education, like all other education, has reference to the entire man, and its effect should ever be to make the sailor or marine a perfect creature of his kind, as much so, indeed, as the skilled artisan becomes after his long and laborious apprenticeship.

(To be continued.)

THE REDUCTION OF THE ARMY.

(From the New York Nation, Dec. 30, 1875.)

THERE are certain national affairs, the tariff being a conspicuous example, which have always served as Congressional foot-balls, to be bandied to and fro—as an index of the strength of party ranks or of the skill of party leaders—and which, as soon as they have reached a goal, are again carried into the arena to be struggled over by new sets of players. From these contests the buffeted object always emerges more or less damaged, and the winning party, caring nothing for the symbol that it has borne before it, and little for the principle, if haply a principle there be, involved, flings aside the somewhat mutilated trophy for which but a little while before it was hotly contending. One of these playthings is the Army, to the treatment of which we invite attention.

The dread of a standing army as a menace to constitutional liberty manifested itself with our English forefathers in the yearly re-enacted and annually expiring Mutiny Act, which for so many years, we might say for political ages, has given the military force of Great Britain its legal existence; and found expression in the Congress of the Confederation, at the close of our own Revolution, in the disbandment of all the Continental forces except, literally, a few dozen men to guard the ordnance stores at Fort Pitt and West Point. That dread, although not always clearly defined as an article of political faith, coupled with the notion that an army is "aristocratic," and therefore unrepresentative, and is costly, and therefore should be suppressed, has tainted popular feeling to the present day. Many of the Congressional debates and the statutes growing out of them affecting the military force, form a curious medley of unwilling and often ignorant legislation. To this very point one of the few traditional witticisms of Washington bears witness. It is said that it was proposed in the Convention to limit the Army to five thousand men, when he offered the additional clause, "and no enemy shall invade the United States with more than three thousand men." In April, 1861, the Army consisted of nineteen small regiments. In 1866, the peace establishment was fixed at 50,000 men; in 1869, it was reduced to 30,000, and in 1874 to 25,000 men. A vigorous effort will be made this winter to effect a further heavy reduction under the plea of economy.

In the eyes of politicians, it would be childish for the Army to revive the vows and pledges written on the sands of popular feeling in the frightened days of '61. The handful of regulars at Bull Run, Wilson's Creek, and Fort Pickens in 1861, and on the Peninsula and again at Bull Run in 1862, who, as they stemmed those floods of fire, indicated what an army corps of such troops would have been worth, established no claim of which their survivors and successors can show the bond. But until the millennium introduces unerring judgment as well as perfect morals, armies, equally with courts of justice, will be necessary agents of governments. And with these, as with women, to be respected they must be good. To be effective, an army must be able to discharge its ordinary duties thoroughly, and must have a reasonable reserve with which to respond to demands of emergency. It is the unexpected that happens and for which we should be prepared. But, unfortunately, where danger is prospective, present cost is apt to outweigh future advantages. The standing army has probably never been in excess of the current requirements of the country, and its muster-roll now is but a trifle larger than when the rebellion arose. No one doubts the impulse given to secession by the occupation of the empty or feebly garrisoned forts, and yet at this day about eighteen hundred men hold the seaboard from Esposito to Pensacola. It is true that no new rebellion is to be apprehended, but it is equally true that the forts were built for a purpose, and that the men in each harbor are barely enough to guard the guns decently from petty thieves of old iron. The condition is the same upon the Lake region. Except the artillery just referred to, the nominal peace establishment is really occupied with chronic war. Probably not a dozen of the trans-Mississippi garrisons have not been engaged in actual hostilities within the last ten years, often on the briefest warning. As we have pointed out in discussing the Indian question, the ability to compel peace is an important element in its preservation. To display that ability requires every available carbine and rifle. But vexatious and harassing as are the savage troubles, there is plainly other work that may engage the troops. In 1866, with many more disposable battalions, the Fenian flurry required their active employment to prevent embarrassing complications, and these or other international blunders may any day set the Canadian frontier aflame. The instant that Great Britain is involved in war a military cordon on the north will be necessary for our own neutrality. In like manner, the Cuban question may lead to an embargo; and the Rio Grande is no barrier, and but an indifferent boundary as Mexican affairs now run. We are no alarmists, and the immediate foreign outlook is reasonably serene; but modern war is its own herald, and the reduction of our minimum army would place us among very foolish virgins who had thrown away their lamps as well as expended their oil. But the constant Indian and the possible foreign problems are not the only ones that may require martial solution. Utah has its thorn in the flesh that may demand mili-

tary surgery in the future as in Sidney Johnston's day. New Mexico is virtually a foreign province, despite the sweet pipings of ambitious politicians, and fortune may tempt the alien people, who to this hour hate the Americans, to repeat and extend the revolt of Taos. The inhospitable climate of Alaska may shield its natives from fierce contact with the pioneer, but if the unregenerate squatter ever migrates there, as Mr. Seward dreamed, there will be loud and real calls for the Army in force. We thus barely indicate some military possibilities, although, as becomes our Centennial year, we are now in a state of unusual repose; for the doors of Janus are never locked, and no one can foresee the disturbing jar.

The prompt reply that this representation will receive is that an army is costly, and that volunteers will appear when war comes. An army is costly, but neglect is generally extravagant. The shepherd who delays sending for dogs until wolves attack the flock, will find slaughtered mutton more expensive than dog-feed. An army on a war-footing is only for war, but the true peace establishment is one of efficient activity. One overgrown would be mischievous, but one impotent from size would be less economical; for efficient as well as merciful war is really short, sharp, and decisive. The common argument assumes that in peace the Army makes no return for the money expended upon it, that to cut it down will be a positive saving, and that, in fact, volunteers will do the fighting when hostilities occur. That the Army makes a positive and constant return, albeit not in the shape of visible dollars paid into the Treasury, we may point out another time; but to assume that reduction below a certain limit is economical is akin to the fallacy of undermanning a steamship. A few dollars in wages may be saved, but the essential working expenses are not diminished, and a very serious risk of wrecking the whole establishment is incurred. Volunteers saved the nation, but they did so as determined citizens bent on upholding the Government at every sacrifice; for, with all their courage and all their patriotism, there is no more costly machinery for waging war than volunteer organizations. They are wasteful of time, of stores, of money, and, above all, of lives. Disease makes fearful havoc among such troops. Our regulars will never form the body of a mobilized army, but they should always be its soul, for a division of disciplined troops is the tempered lance-head making efficient the extemporized column that it leads. To tear to pieces a delicate machine—a machine that is vital in a double sense—with the certain knowledge that it must speedily be reconstructed, merely to save the friction of its daily use, is a blunder that no statesman will countenance and that no politician will look upon with complacency five years after he has voted for it.

That the discipline and organization of the force now in existence are what they ought to be, we by no means pretend. The Army has suffered since the war from the same causes which have corrupted and are corrupting the civil service. Its tone has been lowered by leniency and favoritism in high quarters, as well as by the spirit of money-getting which has, since 1863, flowed through all branches of Government like a flood of lava. It is with the remorseless removal of whatever has interfered or is interfering with the discipline and honorable feeling of the force that the present Congress ought to occupy itself. In cutting down its numbers, we are simply diminishing the effectiveness of the only instrument of its will on which the Government can at this moment implicitly rely.

(From the Mobile Register.)

While every one desires the strictest economy at Washington and the curtailment of the excessive quartermaster expenses, we doubt whether it is wisdom or economy to cut down the rank and file of the Army. Before the war we had an army of 20,000 men. It does not now exceed 25,000 men. Certainly with our more extensive frontier, this Army is not too large. If there are inefficient officers in the Service, they should be weeded out and an opportunity given for the promotion of the meritorious; but as a Southern journal, we protest against any cutting away at the Army simply because it is the Army of the United States. No honorable Southern member of Congress who wore a sword or bore a musket for the Confederacy will permit himself to be biased against the Army by the result of battle or by the use which was made of the Army after the war. We are glad to know that Mr. Speaker Kerr, in appointing the Committee on Military Affairs, has placed as its chairman a Liberal Republican, General Banning, of Ohio. This was a most happy selection. In Terry of Virginia and Cooke of Georgia, General Banning will have associates who will have as much pride in preserving the dignity of the Army in peace as they had in fighting it in war.

We suggest to our Southern representatives that the matter of undue interference in Southern affairs can be better corrected by striking at the usurpations of the so-called Department of Justice. The war office is not responsible for what has happened, and the number of troops has been a matter of no moment. General De Trobriand and a corporal could be just as effective in these political troubles as a regiment of infantry. The evil complained of is not to be corrected by reducing the Army.

(From the Philadelphia Times.)

The President was interviewed recently by a gentleman who graduated at West Point, and has maintained a lifelong friendship with Grant, on various topics of general interest. He vehemently opposed the reduction of the Army, and said that even if the Senate should agree to the proposed action of the House, which he doubted, he would most certainly veto the bill when it came to him. The President gave no special reasons for opposing the reduction, but is fully determined not to permit it. When asked the meaning of the recent activity in the Navy, the President replied that he was not yet ready to explain, but would do so soon, and in a most satisfactory manner to the country.

He said that he would give this explanation in a message to Congress, and that if Congress desired the information before he is ready to send in his message they could have it by passing a resolution asking for it.

(From the Omaha Republican, Dec. 29.)

A great deal of clap-trap is wasted annually in speeches to show that our Army and Navy are necessarily large and expensive, and should be reduced to ante-bellum proportions. The Army in 1860 was 15,000 men; in 1875 it is 25,000; ergo, let the Army be reduced to the number allowed in 1860. Plainly this inference is a *non sequitur*. The perimeter of frontier to be guarded by our military force is twenty times greater than it was in 1860; civilization is crowding in upon the home of the coyote and the painted savage from the east and the west alike. Four great railroads are now across the Missouri, one of them spanning the continent.

Where the Cheyennes, Arapahoes and Sioux shot buffalo five years ago, are large hives of humanity now; the railroads bring population into the Indian country, but they also drive game away, while the red man remains to prey upon the feeble settlements because the troops are too few to protect them. Railroads give increased efficiency by giving increased mobility to military columns; a mathematical ratio exists between the number of troops and the duties to be performed, and the mobility that can be imparted to them; experience shows that regiments too attenuated cannot be turned into flying columns; comparisons might be profitably instituted between the areas U. S. soldiers have to guard, and those protected by the troops of other nations—then, the absurdity of reduction would be so glaring that we should hear no more of economy in that direction.

Two great causes are at work to make the Army unpopular in Congress; ignorance and prejudice, so closely lapping at the edges that it is no easy matter to say where one begins and the other ends. The Army is without representation, in Congress it has no official patronage; assaults upon it provoke no counter attacks; cheap heroism hides its base nature under a lion's skin and roars loudly of the courage and patriotism needed to assail where no defence can be made. The Secretary of War cannot appear on the floor of Congress to defend or explain his budget; his estimates once before the House are open to the criticism of every sucking Demosthenes or amateur Lycurgus, whose dense ignorance gives a keener edge to his philippics. This feeling of antagonism to the Army, as an army, is illogical, unjust and ungenerous; it would not last a moment if the real services of the Army were known, or if the communities near which it labors could render an account of them. The remote territories have so little to say in Congress that their delegates say that little for themselves.

To the western settler, the Army is not only a protector but a patron; a shield against danger, an encourager of peaceful industry. Wherever a military post is, there we find signs of permanence in the surrounding villages. Safety for their crops in the ground and their cattle on the hills and a ready purchaser for them when offered for sale, are the reasons influencing the farmer to forming little communities near the posts, which swell by the accretions of emigration until the country is strong enough to take care of itself, when the troops move their cantonments farther into the Indian territory and repeat the same programme. In this curious way, nine out of ten of our western cities have had their origin, or early encouragement: Pittsburg, Fort Wayne, Detroit, Des Moines and St. Louis are examples.

The Washington correspondent of the *Herald* says: Reformers are never popular, especially if they are in earnest, and this the democratic leaders in the House begin already to discover. They propose a heavy reduction in the Army, and, it is said, threaten also to reduce the pay of the Navy. The last measure would be ill advised, as the pay of Navy officers is not greater than it ought to be. As to the Army, it begins to be seen that any considerable reduction will excite the opposition of democratic members from the southwestern and other border States and from the Pacific coast, and will not be so easily accomplished as was at first thought. It is possible that those who wish to reduce the Army may receive assistance from an unexpected quarter. If Senator Morton should carry his Mississippi investigating committee, and there should be a possibility that the President could be persuaded to use the Army in the Southern States as it was used in former years, in that case the democrats in the House would not merely vote to reduce the force, but would, probably, reduce any except an extremely moderate Army appropriation, with the object of disabling the President from armed interference in the South.

The Washington correspondent of the *World* says: "The composition of the Military Committee of the House has been a subject of earnest discussion in military circles. A well-grounded apprehension exists that an effort will be made by this House to reduce the military establishment, and curtail it to its dimensions before the late war. All the Army officers in the city are, of course, determined to defeat any measure looking to this end, and strong efforts are now being made, socially and otherwise, to checkmate any move in this direction. Leading military men in the District have held informal consultations upon the subject, and every legitimate means that can be brought to bear will be used to prevent any action by the Military Committee adverse to their interests."

THE Washington *Chronicle* says: "It is hardly probable that the great reduction proposed for the Army, will be favorably received outside of a very limited circle, which is composed almost exclusively of parties having other reasons than those of economy for their opposition to the military arm of the Government."

THE NATIONAL GUARD.

THE PENNSYLVANIA TROOPS.—The report of Adjutant-General James W. Latta, of Pennsylvania, is the first of the State reports for the past year that has come to hand, and inasmuch as Pennsylvania is the Keystone State, the theatre of the Centennial Exposition, and the second State of the Union in population, its reports are now paramount in general. The interest of General Latta's present report is further enhanced by the fact of its minuteness, and we have determined to quote copiously therefrom, for the benefit of those of our readers who hail from other States. The report shows that the Adjutant-General of Pennsylvania works as hard as Adjutant-General Townsend, of New York, for he gives a report of personal inspection of every company in the State forces during the year 1875. The result of his inspections shows the total force of National Guard in Pennsylvania to be 829 officers and 9,273 enlisted men, divided into 178 companies of infantry, ten of cavalry, and six of artillery. The infantry is further divided into nineteen regiments and six unattached companies. The great defect of the State military system appears in the higher units of force, however; for there are no less than ten divisions. There is no room for doubt that a consolidation to two or three would help the State. Too many generals are as bad as too many colonels, and when the Centennial Exposition comes with its great parade, the fact will force itself on the public mind, that ten major-generals and five brigadiers, each with a full staff, are too many for nineteen regiments. An examination of the roster shows a very easy remedy, in reduction of rank. All but the First and Second Divisions ought to be reduced in rank to brigades and several of them consolidated, for 9,000 men will not with the utmost stretching make more than five or six brigades. Two divisions of three brigades would only muster out two major-generals, and five brigadiers, while taking an extra star off the shoulder of six more major-generals. We doubt not that a little proper military spirit on their part would recognize the wisdom of the change and induce them to give up the rank which at present has nothing to back it.

The First Division is naturally the best, as in New York. It is composed of city troops in two brigades, and comprises the First, Second, Third, and Sixth Pennsylvania, Fourth Pennsylvania Battalion, the Philadelphia City Troop, and Black Hussars, the Keystone Battery, Washington Gray Artillery, and two independent companies of infantry, the "Weccane Legion," and "State Fencibles." The cavalry was inspected dismounted and has a very favorable report. The artillery comes in for an equal share of praise. The infantry appears in a wavering light, part good, part poor. The First Pennsylvania is noticed as follows: "The regiment continues to be the best in our service. It is complete in material." The report is entirely favorable to every company. The Second is different. Only two companies get a first class report, two a fair one, five graduating down to poor. The Third comes again lower, only one coming up to fair. The Sixth is a gratifying change, owing to the energy of Colonel Maxwell, its commandant. It comes next to the First in all things, its only weak point being numbers. All the companies are above fair, and some excellent, according to the report. The Fourth Battalion appears to be worthy of disbandment, only one company coming near fair. The two independent companies, the "State Fencibles" and "Weccane Legion," are first class organizations in appearance, and resemble the "Old Guard" of New York, the Albany "Burgess Corps," the New England "Governor's Guard," and similar organizations. The Second Division has a single brigade (the Fifth), and only two regiments—the Fourth and Sixteenth Infantry. Both appear to be below fair, except for one or two companies, which receive due credit. The Third Division is reported as presenting "a most unsatisfactory appearance." It contains one regiment (the Ninth) of infantry, three companies of the same, and a battery of artillery (Wyoming Artillery). This is the coal region division, around Wilkesbarre, where the Ninth regiment ruined its uniforms in the riots, and has received none since. The Telford Zouaves (in swallow tails) are the only company that receive praise, except the artillery, and both only come to fair. The Fourth Division, of Pottsville, is highly praised. It comprises the Seventh and Eighth Pennsylvania Infantry, and three cavalry companies, two dismounted. The "Russell Guards" (dismounted) catch it, the "Junata Scouts" are praised, the "Ashland Dragoons" (mounted) are praised still more. The Seventh regiment is being newly uniformed, and seems to be unsettled at present, but the Eighth comes in for the best praise after the Sixth Pennsylvania. It has adopted the United States uniform, and almost all the companies are favorably mentioned. The Fifth Division comprises two infantry regiments (Fifth and Twelfth Pennsylvania) and two companies of dismounted cavalry (Sheridan Cavalry and Sheridan Troop). Both the infantry regiments are newly uniformed or to be uniformed, and are reported as fair to good, and improving. The cavalry seems from the report to be about the same as the Third New York Cavalry—that is to say, not worth very much. The Sixth Division hails from smoky Pittsburgh, and has two brigades (the Third and Fourth). The Third Brigade has a regiment (Nineteenth Pennsylvania) and a troop and battery. They are reported as fair to middling, and one company as "not impressive"—a significant phrase. The Fourth Brigade has two regiments and a battery. The Fourteenth and Eighteenth regiments receive praise as from fair to good, and seem to rank next after the Eighth in order as named. The Seventh Division is round the Lake shore at Erie, and the "Lakers" seem to take military life philosophically. They have two regiments (Fifteenth and Seventeenth Pennsylvania) in all sorts of uniforms, and the former is almost a mob, to judge from the frequent occurrence of such remarks as "unsoldierly," "little discipline," "thin in numbers," requires much labor," etc. The Eighteenth seems to be working up from a similar state to fair rank. The Eighth Division has a single little regiment (Tenth Pennsylvania) and a company called the Hugs Rifles. The regiment is newly uniformed, and ranks fair. The "Rifles" are best left back at Latrobe. The Ninth Division has a regiment of nine companies the thirteenth Pennsylvania, about half uniformed. It was inspected at Apollo, in Pennsylvania, not Olympus. The Tenth Division closes the list with a regiment (Eleventh Pennsylvania), a troop, and a battery. The troop (Washington Troop) and the battery (Griffin Battery) are reported as the very best, in fact the only really good ones, in the State, for both turned out mounted, and drilled well, while the crack city organizations of the mounted arms turned out on foot. The regiment seems to be very fair, as a whole, but spoiled by a few poor companies. The report concludes with an account of the mining riots of a few months ago, in which the militia was called on to preserve the peace. The Third and Fourth Divisions were the ones engaged in this duty. The men behaved well, though without sufficient clothing in severe weather.

A review of the whole report compels the conclusion that Pennsylvania militia needs reorganization even more than New York militia. Its little divisions need consolidation, its men a handsome State appropriation, the cavalry and

artillery to be consolidated into regiments, each under a competent chief. This ought to be done pretty quickly, if Pennsylvania does not expect to be shamed by the New England States next July. There is time to do a good deal. Consolidation, disbandment, pay and uniforms, a sharp inspector, a merciless board of examination, will do wonders before May. If it is not done, judging from General Latta's report, the State will be no where at the exposition, for it has but one regiment (the First) which can fairly be called first class, while New York can show about five fully its equal, Connecticut four (her entire force), Massachusetts two or three, and Maryland one at least.

The Pennsylvania troops need not, however, be discouraged on this account. We have seen such wonders performed by hard work that we believe in it unlimitedly. During the present year we intend to devote particular attention to helping all organizations on their road to perfect drill. January commences the serious work, and we hope to be able to keep our readers constantly informed of the progress of centennial drills all over the Union. A constant perusal of these columns will be found to pay, in ambitious commands.

THE NEW YORK TROOPS.—We have received from an officer of distinction in the State service the following letter which will speak for itself. He says:

I have read with much interest your articles on the National Guard, and in availing myself of your invitation to comment thereon desire to say at the start that, generally speaking, I am in full sympathy with your publisher's views, and thoroughly believe that the present seeming "play soldier" policy of the State toward the National Guard should be ended at the earliest possible moment. Liberal and just in all things else, the Empire State can ill afford to be illiberal and unjust in dealing with so important an adjunct of the civil power as the National Guard. Yet, virtually, the State is illiberal, to a degree not misnamed when designated "niggardly." In substance she says to her Guardsmen: "It is a fine thing to play soldier, and you should be glad of the chance of doing it without expense to any one save yourself; but since we have a pretty strict law, and your enlistment under it subjects you for its violation to severe punishment in the shape of fines and imprisonment, and since we can command so much of your time and the necessary expenditure of much of your money, and in drills and parades compel a more severe exercise than many of you are accustomed to, therefore we will, in full satisfaction—provided you fulfil the exact requirements of the law—give you the magnificent sum of six dollars and twenty-five cents per year; provided further, that you don't get the money yourself, but allow its expenditure in a general way, under the direction of your commanding officers." Such in effect is the present arrangement. Can any one call it liberal? Then, for injustice, where is there anything that will compare with the repeal of the tax exemption clause? Numbers of the National Guard had enlisted to avail themselves of the exemption; and while it is true, that as a class they were not the harum-scarum hot heads that some men seem to believe are the only men fit for soldiers, they were the solid "stand-bys" of a majority of our organizations, and contributed greatly to the permanence and good character of the active force. Enlisting with the utmost good faith, and performing honestly their part of the agreement, they are suddenly told that the tax exemption is repealed; that their agreement with the State so far as the latter is concerned amounts to nothing; but that they are enlisted and must serve their time, utterly regardless of what they supposed to be a mutual agreement. Is it any wonder that under such treatment many become discouraged and lose all interest except in the matter of their discharge? It may not be generally known, but it is a fact, that during the past year whole organizations have only been kept together by the belief that the Legislature of this year would certainly right the wrong of the last. Failing to do this, the National Guard will get a "set back" that will be realized only when too late. So much for that. And now a few words as to what should be. 1st. Restore the tax exemption, or provide in its place some real tangible inducement for enlistments. 2d. Make appropriations large enough to cover all expenses, so that it will be no longer considered a costly luxury to become in any way connected with the National Guard. 3d. In addition to the dress uniform, provide for the full equipment of every man in the way of overcoat, blanket, knapsack, haversack, and canteen. 4th. Insist upon thorough semi-annual inspection of every organization by officers especially fitted, paid for their work, and compelled to the faithful discharge of their duty. 5th. Weed out and recall the commissions of inefficient officers by competent examining boards. 6th. Do away with everything political in its organization, and if necessary reduce it in numbers until the State allowance shall cover all of its wants and make it ready at a moment's notice for most effective service. I have hastily noted these few thoughts in the interest of the organizations; in some things I may be wrong, in more I am confident I am right, and I hope to see so much interest taken in the matter by those who should be most interested as will compel the attention and favorable action of our law makers.

FIFTH NEW YORK.—Colonel Spencer has reported for duty in the First Brigade, and the regiment is "ticked to death" at getting under General Ward, and between the Twelfth and Twenty-second. On Monday, January 3, officers' meeting was held at the armory, and the regiment proved to be out of debt for the first time in many years. This happy result is owing mainly to the judicious financial management of Colonel Spencer, assisted by Captain Ross, the regimental treasurer, for the time was, not so very long ago neither, when the Fifth New York had a debt of \$9,000 on its back. All the management, however, would have proved useless, but for the generosity of the colonel himself, who has at various times in the last few years, paid over \$18,000 cash for regimental debts, out of his own private pocket. The publication of the regimental accounts gave rise to a very pleasant scene in the board, votes of thanks being passed, and all the civil officers of the board re-elected unanimously. Now that the Fifth has passed into a strict brigade, there is every reason to hope that its future will be bright and unclouded, for a spirit of perfect unanimity prevails among its officers, and all are anxious to learn. The captain of Company G has resigned, and a new company 100 strong is coming in from the Ninety-sixth in its place.

SEVENTH NEW YORK.—Drills by division in the school of the battalion will commence in this famous regiment about the middle of February. Meantime commandants, in addition to the thorough instruction of their commands in the school of the company, will assemble their non-commissioned officers as often as may be necessary, and instruct them carefully in their duties in the school of the battalion. The board of examination will meet at the armory on Friday, January 28, 1876, at 8 o'clock P. M., for the examination of all non-commissioned officers elected previous to January 1, 1876, who have not received their warrants. In compliance with Circular No. 8, Inspector-General's Department, the following additional list of marksmen, with their companies and scores, is published:

A. P. Riker, B. 40; W. E. McCready, H. 37; Corporal B. Dominick, I. 35; J. Drummond, B. 35; Sergeant H. C. Bacon, K. 34; Lieutenant W. G. Dominick, I. 31; T. Beebe, H. 33; J. H. Dederick, H. 33; G. T. Merchant, I. 33; H. B. Marshall, I. 32; Corporal Edward Arnold, I. 31; W. T. Flash, H. 30; T. Comstock, I. 30; C. G. S. Phillips, G. 29; Lieutenant L. L. Nicoll, H. 28; Surgeon M. Morris, staff, 28; A. Conger, H. 27; Lieutenant J. B. Dawson, G. 26; E. W. Kothum, H. 25; Lieutenant H. S. Germond, I. 25; Captain D. A. Pollard, C. 26; D. Tomes, K. 26; Captain F. W. Houghton, staff, 36; H. B. Jewett, I. 25.

Privates Fred. Storer, Robert Miliken, and Henry D. Standart having been expelled by Company B, the action of said company is confirmed.

THIRTEENTH NEW YORK.—Lieutenant-Colonel Van Cleef and Major Syme are the latest elections in this regiment. Both have seen over ten years' service. All the Thirteenth needs is the pluck of the Ninth. Get in the men and the money can be got for uniforms by a little diplomacy and business capacity. The Thirteenth should have a deputation in the State Military Association to secure State help for the National Guard, and induce other Brooklyn regiments to send similar deputations.

TWENTY-EIGHTH NEW YORK.—This regiment will assemble for dress parade at the armory on Thursday, January 13, at 7:45 P. M. The following members of the regiment will then receive a decoration commemorative of their long and faithful service: Quartermaster Sergeant Daniel Eckhardt, Company B; Drummer August Weber, Company A. Officers and members of this regiment, who have qualified as marksmen, will also be presented with the Marksmen's Badge on said evening. There will be wing drills at the armory as follows: Right wing, Companies A, I, H and B, Thursdays, January 20, February 3 and 17; left wing, Companies E, G, C and D, Thursdays, January 27, February 10 and 24, at 8 P. M. Lieutenant-Colonel F. W. Obernier and Major Anthony Wills, respectively, drill the right and left wings. The battalion drills will be on Thursdays, March 2, 9, 16 and 23, same hour. The following changes are announced: Commissions—John H. Ostermann to be chaplain; George Giehl to be captain Company H; Philip Boasert to be first Lieutenant Company H.

The better to secure uniformity in keeping the books, Quartermaster-Sergeant George W. Cittle has been appointed clerk, and he will receive a regular salary from the regiment. Commandants of companies will notify Clerk George W. Cittle of any changes that may occur in their commands. The same will be entered in the company books, and returns, muster rolls, etc., will be made by him. The colonel commanding submits for the information of this command a statement of the uniform fund of this regiment, as shown on the books of this command, January 1, 1876, showing the regiment out of debt, with \$636.00 cash on hand. Baker and McKenny appear to have made all the equipments. The prospective State appropriation for 1876, together with the balance on hand January 1, 1876, will be sufficient to furnish overcoats and knapsacks to the members of this command and still leave a balance in the uniform fund.

FORTY-SEVENTH NEW YORK.—Lieutenant-Colonel Brownell and Major Bradley were elected last week in this regiment (Brooklyn Division), and the command will now progress rapidly, as its field comprises three first class officers, who can work together like clockwork. The Centennial assessment is to be \$10 per man for a week's camp, and Brooklyn members of the lately disbanded regiments are recommended to join the Forty-seventh, as it is sure to make a good figure in Philadelphia.

FIFTY-FOURTH NEW YORK.—The commissioned officers are ordered to be at the Rochester arsenal on Thursday evenings, January 13 and 20; non-commissioned officers on the 10th, 19th, and 28th of January. Adjutant A. H. Bruman detailed as instructor. Division drills as follows: Companies E and B, Wednesdays; H, A, and C, Thursdays; D and G, Fridays; K, F, and I, Mondays. Assembly on each occasion at 7:45 P. M. The senior officer present will take command. Companies E, I, A, B, and K (right wing), drill on alternate Wednesday evenings in March, April, and May, Lieutenant-Colonel Eddy in command. Companies D, F, G, and H (left wing), on Thursdays in March, April and May, Major Weitzel in command. The companies will have instruction in aiming drill and candle practice, under Captain E. S. Phelps, I. R. P., on Fridays from March to May.

SIXTY-NINTH NEW YORK.—The non-commissioned officers drill at armory, Essex Market, Thursday, January 6. Battalion drills in State Arsenal for the year 1876 will be Monday, January 10, 1876, fatigue uniform; Monday, February 7, 1876, fatigue uniform; Monday, March 13, 1876, full-dress uniform. Assembly on each occasion at 8 o'clock P. M. The following non-commissioned officers have creditably passed the regimental examining board: Sergeants Patrick Curtin and James J. Hussey, Company A; First Sergeant Michael White, Company G, and Sergeants Wm. Desmond and James Cunningham, Company D. In obedience to General Orders No. 10, c. s., from division headquarters, this regiment is transferred from the First to the Third Brigade, New York troops. The colonel, on behalf of the regiment, tenders to General Ward and staff, in orders, thanks for the courteous and kind manner in which he and all members of his command having official intercourse with brigade headquarters have been received, and in joining the Third Brigade, cordially wishes sister regiments of the First Brigade adieu.

SEVENTY-FIRST NEW YORK.—The right wing of this regiment held its first battalion drill for 1876 at the New York City Arsenal on Tuesday evening, January 4. Lieutenant-Colonel Chadlock put them through at first, and Colonel Vose followed. The movements were all simple, and as a rule well executed, but there was a marked absence of the "snap" and "vim" that should characterize a first class regiment. It being the first public drill, we do not intend to be very critical, and shall merely point out one or two faults, easy of correction. Three of the officers in the centre of the wing need to learn the sword manual better. "Present arms," in the manual, is not a compliment. The guides are too slow in coming out. A general alignment is a simultaneous, not a successive formation, and colors and general guides should face the colonel. In all drills, small or large, general guides and markers are both needed, and making shift with one pair makes a poor drill, and gets general guides into bad habits. The officers of the Seventy-first, like those of the Fifth and many others, are too slow in dressing, almost always turning a simultaneous into a successive dress.

SEVENTY-NINTH NEW YORK.—The mustering out of this famous old regiment at their armory on December 29, was a very sad sight. Many of the men were affected to tears as they parted from their old commander, who had served with them on many battle-fields, and carried the scar of more than one bullet in his body. Had it been possible to retain the old Seventy-ninth with a prospect of making it into a strong and self-supporting regiment numerically, we should have been very glad to have seen it done. As it is, there is still a future open to the component parts of the regiment in the New York National Guard, which only demands energy on the part of its late officers. The Seventy-ninth was mustered out because it had not a good available strength, and its members being generally poor men, were not able to provide respectable uniforms. Its officers were also generally poor men, unable to keep up appearances; half the regiment having kilts, the other half none. If the survivors wish it, they can resuscitate the regiment without difficulty, other than pecuniary and social. If there are enough pure blood Scots in New York city to show the Governor a new Seventy-ninth, all kilted and handsomely uniformed, crowned with the towering black plumes associated with Highland regiments for so many years, such a regiment would be accepted and armed quick enough. But the present drift of opinion in military

circles is that no regiment can afford to live on past deeds. It must keep up to the standard now. The Seventy-ninth may be revived if there are enough Gaels in New York, with race-pide enough to induce them to open their purse strings. In peace time money and energy are required to make a successful regiment, and these were lacking in the Seventy-ninth, Eighty-fourth, Fifty-fifth and Ninety-sixth, the sole reason for their fall.

BATTERY K, FIRST NEW YORK DIVISION.—This battery will drill at the State Arsenal, New York city, on Thursdays, January 6 and 20, February 10 and 24, March 9 and 23, and April 6. The officers, non-commissioned officers and guidon will have theoretic drill and instruction at the armory on Thursdays, January 27, and March 2. The officers, non-commissioned officers and cannoniers will assemble in the gun room of the State Arsenal on Thursday February 3, for school of the piece. The officers, non-commissioned staff officers, chiefs of section, musicians, guidon and drivers will assemble in the Riding School of the First Division, Nos. 7, 9 and 11 West Thirtieth street, for mounted drill, on Thursdays, March 16 and 30. The roll will be called at the several drills at 8 o'clock p. m., precisely. The members of the battery hold their annual ball at the Teutonia Assembly Rooms on January 12.

SECOND NEW YORK BRIGADE.—The disbandment order in this brigade has been issued and prescribes that the following organizations assemble at their respective armories for disbandment and muster out by the Brigade Inspector, Lieutenant-Colonel Wm. H. King, on the dates below designated: Eighty-fourth regiment Infantry, on Tuesday, January 11, at 7:30 p. m.; Ninety-sixth regiment Infantry, on Wednesday, January 12, at 7:30 p. m. The muster-out rolls will be prepared as prescribed in General Orders No. 14, series 1868, from General Headquarters, and one copy thereof will be forwarded to brigade headquarters on or before January 8. The muster-out will be conducted in conformity to the provisions of the order above quoted, and the attention of commissioned officers rendered supernumerary is directed to section 24 of the Military Code. The brigade commander expresses his deep regret that the requirements of the State service have necessitated the disbandment of the regiments referred to. The Second Brigade gains a great deal more than it loses, and General Vilmar can be congratulated on now having three handsome regiments.

NEW YORK ARMORIES.—Adjutant-General Townsend, in his annual report, in noticing which we are now compelled to be very brief, says, with regard to the six regiments which still remain in New York city unprovided with armories on State or city property: "In the present financial condition of the city of New York I cannot advocate the building of armories there, but on the contrary would only recommend leasing, and from all the information I have been able to gather I entertain the opinion that these six regiments can be provided with suitable armories at a total expense for rent not exceeding \$60,000 per annum. Contrasting this sum with the several hundred thousand dollars paid for rent at one period, all must admit that it would be a moderate expense for the purpose. This being accomplished I am confident that all the parties interested—the municipal authorities, the taxpayers and the National Guard—will be satisfied."

A saving of \$190,000 will be effected by this policy. The report is very full and emphatic on the subject of rifle practice, and the adjutant-general only regrets that more of the practice is not at short range and from the shoulder, in which we heartily agree with him. We cannot so entirely agree with his remarks as to the uselessness of encampments. Rifle practice is good, but camp duty and rifle practice combined are better. The former has done wonders for the New England troops, and the experience of war teaches us that nothing will bring up troops to standard so quickly as a good strict camp of instruction.

N. R. A.—The first director's meeting for 1876 was held on Tuesday, January 4, General Shaler in the chair. Treasurer's balance \$4,334.65. General Woodward reported that his committee inspected a piece of ground nine miles from Philadelphia, and Major Fulton was requested to examine the proposed site for a range. The programme adopted, if the Centennial match is shot at or near Philadelphia, is as follows: Commence on second Tuesday in September, 1876. Match open to teams of eight from each country. Any rifle within N. R. A. rules. Distance, 800, 900 and 1,000 yards; thirty shots at each distance; each competitor firing fifteen shots each day. Match to last two days. The Amateur Rifle Club was requested to appoint a committee of five members to act with similar committee from N. R. A. in the matter of the International Match of 1876. A contract was entered into with Mr. Poppenhusen, of the Flushing and North Side Railroad, to rent or buy fifteen acres of land, lying north and west of range at Creedmoor. The Winchester Arms Company have offered to erect and present to the range a "running deer target." The range committee were ordered to inquire about renting more ground at the southern extremity of the range, to make 1,200 yards shooting.

VARIOUS ITEMS.

—The Twenty-eighth New York Battalion (of Brooklyn) have refused to pay for their markers used at Creedmoor.

—CAPTAIN Anthony F. Hesse, of the Twenty-eighth New York, has tendered his resignation.

—The fourteenth annual ball of Battery B, First New York Division, will be held at Baumgartner's Military Hall, on the 10th of January.

—CONDITIONAL commissions were issued last week to Lieutenants Wm. H. Walsh and Geo. P. Cooke, of the First, and to Lieutenant Wm. W. Bryant, Second Massachusetts.

—EDWARD T. TAYLOR has been elected first lieutenant of Company K, and Alvah G. Brown has been elected first lieutenant of Company D, of the Forty-seventh New York.

—COMMISSARY of Subsistence Joseph Seitz, of the Thirty-second New York, has tendered his resignation, and Lieutenant John M. Otto has been appointed in his place.

—THE Board of Officers of the Thirtieth New York hold their second annual reception at the armory, corner of Fulton and Orange streets, on the 6th of January.

—COLONEL Joseph Burger, of the Twenty-eighth New York, received his usual New Year's present from his field and staff officers.

—COLONEL Stephen R. Smith will soon return to the command of the Second Connecticut for the Centennial year, and the regiment is going out of its wits for joy.

—CAPTAINS Kemp and Paget and Lieutenant Finn, of the First Massachusetts; Captain Shepard, of the Second; Lieutenant Farrell, of the Ninth, and Lieutenant Newcomb, of the First Massachusetts Cavalry, have resigned.

—SERGEANT William C. Howard, Corporals James M. Allen and Charles E. Waters are detailed to the recruit class Company A, Twenty-third New York, for this season. Squad drills will be held on Wednesday and Friday, at 8 o'clock p. m.

—ON Thursday evening, January 6, Captain Scott, A. D. C. Second New York Brigade staff, gave a very handsome dinner to General Vilmar and his own comrades of the brigade staff, at the Union League Club. The champagne was good, as might be expected, and the Crown Prince's health was drunk with effusion.

—THE Massachusetts Rifle Association had a match at Spy Pond on New Year's day, ten shots off-hand at 300 yards, thirty-five contestants, h. p. s. 60, average of all 38.01. This is exceedingly handsome for so young a club. Major Fulton was present and made 40. The best scores were Parker, Frost, Kirkwood, Morton, and Johnson, each 48.

—THE Morsemere people tried 300 yards' off-hand shooting, twenty shots per man, on December 23, 1875, and ten shots on New Year's day, 1876. Douglas Smyth was the head man, with 75 per cent. in the first match. No one else reached it. In the New Year's match, G. L. Moree, H. Maynard, F. Shonnard, Connell, and Constable made averages of centres and over, never before done at this distance off-hand.

—THE officers of the "Old Guard" of New York City for 1876 are: Major, George W. McLean; Senior Captain, L. D. Bulkley; Junior Captain, James T. Hatfield; Senior First Lieutenant, G. A. Fuller; Junior First Lieutenant, B. Gurney; Senior Second Lieutenant, Thomas F. Morris; Junior Second Lieutenant, Chas. G. Price.

—AT the annual meeting of Company C, Twenty-third New York, held January 3, 1876, the following gentlemen were elected civil officers for the ensuing year: President, Alonzo C. Hasey; Vice-President, Robert H. Haviland; Secretary, Morison Hoyt; Financial Secretary, John A. Metcalfe; Treasurer, Curtis P. Davies; Sergeant-at-Arms, Dewitt C. Mirrieles. The court-martial to consist of Lieutenant H. K. Smith, Sergeant Levi Cook, Jr., Corporal F. J. Faulkner, Privates T. F. Pearsall and J. S. Clemm.

—THE London Times of December 30, 1875, makes the following announcement: "The National Rifle Association of Great Britain have accepted the challenge of the New York Association to take part in the match for small-bore to be held in the United States during the Centennial celebration. Sir Henry Halford has been appointed captain of the English, and is now busily engaged in arranging the preliminaries." So that is all settled, except the stirrup business, which Sir Henry proposes with a smile that is childlike and bland, but which the judge will probably decline with true magisterial gravity.

—GLENDRAKE is beginning to creep slowly up to Morsemere in his shooting record at 500 yards. On New Year's day the A. R. A. had two matches at that distance; one for a cup, open only to members, ten shots; the other a five shot pool match. In the cup match there were six entries, and the scores out of a possible 50 were: David F. Davis, 47; C. A. Hodgeman, 46; Homer Fisher, 43; H. Rathbone, 43; C. Duseberry, 41; John T. Underhill, 37. Davis used Remington Creedmoor, all the rest Sharps Creedmoor. The pool match out of a possible 35 counted H. Fisher 24 and 23 (two tickets); G. H. Thompson and C. A. Hodgeman each 23. The day was fine and soft but somewhat misty.

—WE are sorry to say that certain persons who ought to know better, inspired by the seven sins, and not having the fear of the law before their eyes, have been putting very bad things into the Brooklyn papers about Captain Kreuscher's Troop of Cavalry, Eleventh New York Brigade. They have been not only insinuating, but stating positively that it is to be disbanded. The officers of the troop request us to say that both General Dakin and General Meserole, the division and brigade commanders, deny that there is any foundation for the rumor. It seems that the rumors have been finally traced to a former member of the company, who has a grudge against it, and who will be named by the company, if he does not refrain from further mischief.

SIXTH RHODE ISLAND BATTALION.—Companies A, B and C of this battalion were inspected at Providence, R. I., December 27, at 8 p. m., by General Dennis, as a battalion of three commands, but proved poor in drill. The arms and equipments were in fair condition, none of the companies equalling Company D, of this command, at Newport.

FIFTH RHODE ISLAND BATTALION.—Company B of this command was inspected at Pawtucket, R. I., December 28, at 8:20 p. m. State property in good condition. Men well set up, but drill poor.

FIRST RHODE ISLAND CAVALRY.—Company C of this command was inspected, dismounted, at Pawtucket, R. I., December 29, at 8:35 p. m., by General Dennis. Sabres were in good condition, horse equipments looking finely, and showing much care. After inspection, Captain Stearns entertained General Dennis and invited officers, at a fine banquet. Companies A and B of this command will be inspected on Monday, January 10.

FIRST RHODE ISLAND ARTILLERY.—Battery A of this command will be inspected on Tuesday evening, January 11.

CONNECTICUT RIFLE ASSOCIATION.—An association for the promotion of long range rifle shooting has been organized at Hartford, Conn., to be known as the Connecticut Rifle Association. At the meeting on December 29, 1875, officers were chosen as follows: President, General Joseph R. Hawley; Vice-President, Nathan Washburn; Secretary and Treasurer, Major B. F. Blakelee; Executive Committee, O. E. Pollard, of the Independent Rifle Club, New Britain; G. W. Yale (American team); John C. Kinney, of the Franklin Rifle Club, Hartford; Major L. A. Barbour, First Infantry, and T. F. Plunket, of the Manchester Rifle Club. The committee, to whom was referred the subject of a range, reported through the chairman, Mr. Plunket, recommending the selection of the range at North Manchester, which is easy of access by rail from the city, for temporary use, leaving the question of its permanency for future consideration, which report was accepted. The organization starts with a good membership and excellent prospects, and will be the means of increasing an interest in long range shooting in Hartford and vicinity. Several National Guardsmen have already become members, and interesting competitions are looked for during the Centennial year. At a recent practice one of the members, although an amateur, made a score of 48 in a possible 50, at 500 yards, which augurs well for the development of good shots among the members of the association.

FIRST CONNECTICUT.—The report of drills of the companies of this command, shows during the month of December an average attendance of sixty-five per cent. of membership. Recruiting is progressing slowly, but good material is being obtained for the ranks of the different companies. Companies A, B and H have got settled in their new quarters in the Union Armory, while Companies D and E occupy large and suitable quarters which have recently been secured for them in New Britain. Companies C, F and G occupy armories solitary and alone, which gives the different companies of the regiment large enough drill halls for movements in the school of the company, while battalion drills would be confined to four companies in the largest of the armories. Under this condition of things the regiment cannot be as proficient in the school of the battalion as it would be under more favorable circumstances, but like the rest of the Connecticut regiments, the spring field days and fall encampments are depended upon mostly for more complete instruction in battalion and brigade movements. Company F held its tenth competitive drill on the evening of December 27, for the Veteran Association medal. Private Morgan won the prize, after a close contest of two and a half hours. Sixteen files entered for competition. Brigadier-General Wm. R. Smith was present at the meeting of the officer's association on Tuesday evening. He offered some valuable suggestions for the good of the service. He will visit the other regiments during the winter. The general is hard at work for his little brigade, and proposes to have it fully prepared for all emergencies that may arise at Philadelphia. We feel assured that under his command the National Guard of Connecticut will bring no discredit upon the Commonwealth during the Centennial encampment.

SECOND CONNECTICUT.—The resignation of Colonel John

H. Bario, of this regiment, has been received at the A. G. O. Ex-Colonel Stephen R. Smith will, without a doubt, ride at the head of the Second at Philadelphia. Company D of the regiment, and Second company Governor's Foot Guard, paraded at New Haven on New Year's evening in honor of the Centennial year.

THIRD CONNECTICUT.—Ex-First Lieutenant Nathan P. Noble has been nominated captain of Company A (Mystic), vice Landers promoted major. A good selection.

FIRST MASSACHUSETTS BRIGADE.—S. O. No. 48, date of December 28, countermands S. O. No. 45, relating to elections in the First Infantry. S. O. No. 49, date of December 31, directs Lieutenant-Colonel John H. Roberts, commanding First Cavalry, to call and hold an election in Company D of his command, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation and discharge of First Lieutenant John Newcomb, and also to fill all existing vacancies.

FIRST MASSACHUSETTS CAVALRY.—We regret to announce the resignation of Lieutenant Newcomb, of Company D, who on account of business engagements leaves the company. He was an excellent officer in every respect, especially upon provost duty, where he was unexcelled. His loss will be felt in both company and battalion. Company C will hold their twelfth annual ball on Wednesday evening, January 12.

FIRST MASSACHUSETTS.—A court-martial for the trial of First Lieutenant Cleophas Fals, of Company I, was held last week before Brigadier-General Collins, Judge-Advocate General, at the State House. Charges, disobedience of orders and neglect of duty. The result has not as yet been made public. Captains Kemp and Paget, respectively of Companies A and I, have resigned. If several other officers would follow the example thus set, the regiment would in more ways than one be benefited.

SECOND MASSACHUSETTS (COLORED).—Company A held their annual ball at their armory on Monday evening, and was a grand success. Major Gail, the battalion commander, was made the happy recipient of an easy chair, by the members of the battalion staff, on Friday evening of last week.

FOURTH MASSACHUSETTS.—By Special Orders from battalion headquarters, approved by the brigade commander, Second Lieutenant Wm. J. Fitzmeyer appeared before the board of examiners on Wednesday. Section 20 of Militia Laws, which provides "that any regimental commander, with the approval of the brigade commander, may direct any officer under him already in commission, to appear before said board, and if such officer cannot pass said board, his commission shall be considered as vacated on the filing of the proper certificate of said board with the adjutant-general." At the present time of writing, the decision of the board had not been announced.

FIFTH MASSACHUSETTS.—By G. O. No. 49, brigade headquarters, an election was ordered and held in this command, to fill vacancy of Major J. H. Ingalls. Brigade Inspector presided, and Captain L. C. Lane, of Company F, was elected upon the first ballot.

NINTH MASSACHUSETTS.—Company I dedicated their new armory in South Boston on Monday evening.

TENTH MASSACHUSETTS.—A board consisting of Colonel Deunau, Lieutenant-Colonel Searle and Major Goodrich are at present investigating the condition of Company D, the commander of which is charged with appropriating about \$800 of the companies' funds.

THE ILLINOIS BRIGADE.—Brigadier-General Arthur C. Ducat has assumed command of all the State forces, and announced his staff as follows: Brevet Brigadier-General E. A. Otis, Chief of Staff; Lieutenant-Colonel Geo. I. Waterman, A. A. G.; Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Morgan, Chief of Artillery; Major Alb. rt L. Coe, Q. M.; Major G. S. Dana, C. S.; Major Ben. C. Miller, Surgeon; Dr. Isaac Poole, Assistant Surgeon; Lieutenant John Howley, A. D. C.; Lieutenant H. O. Collins, A. D. C.; Captain P. W. Plank, A. I. G.; Captain J. M. Hosford, A. I. G. Officers of the staff will wear the uniform of their brevet rank in the Army of the U. S. The uniform of the staff will be the same as for the staff officers in the U. S. Army, substituting the letters I. S. G., on hat or cap. All orders heretofore issued to troops by superior officers will remain in force until further orders.

THE WESTERN RIFLE MATCH.—The Inter-State Midrange Match at 500 yards, fifteen shots, teams of six, between the States of Indiana, Michigan and Illinois, came off at South Park, Chicago, December 29, and developed very fair shooting, though not so good as heretofore. It was fought by the Chicago Rifle Club, the Indiana Rifle Association, and the Jackson (Mich.) Rifle Club; h. p. s. a. 450. The weather was damp and misty, and the ground so muddy that the riflemen had to use platforms to lie on. The mist hurt the shooting badly, but the men were very steady. The scores were as follows:

1. Chicago.	2. Michigan.	3. Indiana.
Blackmer.....63	J. Parkinson.....61	Bundel.....65
Shaffer.....63	Wolcott.....58	Weissel.....65
Sexton.....64	Harrington.....54	Shoppel.....59
Alford.....64	Conley.....52	Stinnett.....46
Thompson.....64	Hare.....52	Becks.....39
Willard.....57	L. Parkinson.....42	Devereux.....36
386	319	310

The Remington Creedmoor rifle was used by all except Messrs. Hare and Conley of the Jackson team, who used Sharps Creedmoor.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Journal Pratique de l'Agriculture* states that another memento of the late German invasion has been discovered in the East of France, in the species of rat, known as the Hamster or German Marmot, whose gaminivorous capabilities have been but too well known eastward of the Rhine, and which promises destruction to the French cornfields.

We see it stated that General Geo. B. McClellan, who is now living in Baltimore, will probably be appointed to a position in the service of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, with the title of General Superintendent or General Manager.

A BUST of the late Major-General Halleck, U. S. A., has been presented by his son to the Society of California Pioneers, of which the deceased during his lifetime was long a prominent member.

THE President and Mrs. Grant gave a state dinner Jan. 4. Their guests were the Secretary of State and Mrs. Fish, Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. Bristow, Mrs. Belknap, Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Robeson, Mrs. Jewell, Secretary of the Interior and Mrs. Chandler, the Attorney-General and Mrs. Pierpont, Vice-President Ferry, Senator Morton and wife, Senator Allison and wife, General and Mrs. Hunter, Admiral Porter, Montgomery Blair, Col. and Mrs. F. D. Grant, Mr. and Mrs. Lowery, Mr. Creswell, Mr. and Mrs. Boutwell, Mr. Bancroft, Mr. Williams, and ex-Secretary Delano and Mrs. Delano.

FOREIGN ITEMS.

The French National Assembly has lately refused to place the new bill on the administration of the Army in the orders of the day, and the consequence is that this and other portions of the great military reform will have to be settled by the next Parliament.

The Liverpool Tramway Company use a steam machine horse groomer by the aid of which one man can groom 500 horses a day. It is stated that the animals prefer the "groomer" to the currycomb and brush, and that their health is considerably improved by its means.

The British Admiralty have made arrangements with Mr. Allen Young, an experienced Arctic voyager, to communicate with the entrance of Smith's Sound in the Summer of 1876, in the hopes of obtaining some information of the proceedings of the Arctic Expedition.

The British Admiralty has issued an order which has given rise to much comment at the home ports, directing that for the future, instead of seamen proceeding on shore to obtain spiritual instruction, the Roman Catholic priests will be allowed to go on board the training-ships at Portsmouth, Plymouth, and Falmouth.

The London *Globe* hears that the Construction Department at the Admiralty has been busily engaged lately in preparing designs for several new ships, for the construction of which tenders will be invited from private yards; and that preparations are also being made for laying down some larger vessels in the Royal dockyards.

The whalers from Behring's Strait report the season as being "very open" in the Arctic regions; so much so that many had been able to reach Camden Bay, which is about 240 miles eastward of Barrow Head, and where the expedition under Admiral Collinson wintered in 1853-54. This news was contained in letters from Honolulu, dated the 8th of November, which reached the British Admiralty on the 11th of December.

AUSTRIA having definitely decided upon adopting the bronze steel system of ordnance, is proceeding apace with the manufacture of the new guns. On the 27th of November the eightieth cannon was cast under the personal superintendence of Gen. Uchatius, and new foundries and new workshops will be opened, by the aid of which it is hoped that before the end of next year at least a thousand of the new pieces of ordnance will be ready for use.

The British training ship *Warspite*, which has been employed in the service of the Marine Society for the instruction of destitute boys, was destroyed by fire Jan. 3. There were no lives lost. The burning of the ship is ascribed to one of the boys under training, a jealous lad, whose imagination, it is thought, had been excited by the praise which had been lavished upon a boy for his daring conduct during the burning of the training ship *Goliath*, on the 22d ult. To this lad, it is said, a Minister was about to present a gold watch as a reward for his bravery.

A SPEECH made by H. R. H. Duke of Cambridge at a dinner at the Fishmongers' Hall on the 9th of December has created some excitement, and provoked some discussion, on the continent, where it is regarded as a declaration of the intention of England to prepare for probable war. He said among other things: "I cannot conceive that the great bulk of this great country—people who are so sensible, so reasonable, and so prudent in all their dealings—will have the imprudence not to do everything in their power to support the authorities in their endeavors to make the army and navy as efficient as it is right, proper, and desirable, that they should be in an Empire such as ours."

EGYPTIAN conquest progresses. Rauf Pasha reports that no fewer than sixty-two tribes and sub-tribes of Galla and Somali have given in their submission, comprising several millions of people. Whatever may be the ultimate fate of Abyssinia, the country south of it has been annexed quietly enough to Egypt. The Khedive proposes to make Massowah, the Abyssinian port, a port of embarkation for the East Indies and China; in fact, the Egyptian Brindisi. He calculates that, without using the Suez Canal, it would not be impossible to make this new railway and river route from Cairo to Massowah save mails and carriers at least twenty-four hours.

A ROYAL warrant has been issued abolishing the Control Department of the British Army, and ordering the organization of two new departments, viz., the Commissariat and Transport Department and the Ordnance Store Department, thus separating from the present Control Department of that portion of it which represents the old Military Store Department, leaving the remaining departments, which were absorbed into the Control Department on its formation still together. It defines the rank, pay and conditions of appointment, promotion and retirement of the officers of the new departments, but no information is contained in it as to their numbers or the duties with which the departments are to be respectively charged.

SIR SPENCER ROBINSON is of the opinion, says the *Army and Navy Gazette*, and his authority must carry great weight, that we cannot do better than continue our efforts in building iron-clads, only seeking to improve on them by what we have learned from past experience. The difficulty has been from the commencement to combine several qualities, viz., great speed, handiness in turning, carrying heavy guns, strongly armored in parts, and last, but not least, the ability to go to any part of the world. Many types have been constructed, of which decidedly the best may be considered the *Hercules* and *Monarch*. As regards torpedoes, their employment as an offensive weapon must always be hazardous and uncertain. The slightest flaw in the chain will cause failure, and though by employing a large number we may ensure some succeeding, it is doubtful if they will ever reach perfection.

COL. MACKENZIE, of H. M. 78th Highlanders, recommended that the promotion of one of the sub-alterns of his regiment, Lieutenant Stockpole, be suspended, whereupon the Lieutenant sued the Colonel for having maliciously conspired with several other officers to drive him from the regiment. The evidence, however, showed that there was no malice and no conspiracy, and that Col. Mackenzie simply did his duty, but he had to pay a heavy bill of costs to establish the fact. The Lord Chief Justice ruled that the law of the land lays down that military matters are subjects of military cognizance alone; and that when a man accepts a commission in her Majesty's army he submits himself to military authority, and if he has reason to complain of anything done to him he has the highest military authorities to resort to. If, in such an instance, an officer does not obtain redress, it should be presumed that he is not entitled to it.

The London *World* says that it is to Mr. Greenwood, editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and his friend, Mr. Henry Oppenheim, that the English are indebted for the happy thought which resulted in the recent purchase of the Suez Canal shares. Oppenheim told Greenwood that the Khedive was trying to raise money in Paris on his shares. Greenwood at once saw Lord Derby, who was struck with the advantages of the purchase by England of the shares. He submitted his view to the inner Cabinet, who speedily assented to it. Mr. Oppenheim pointed out that if the purchase was to become a reality, the money must be forthcoming immediately. On this, Mr. Disraeli called into his councils Baron Lionel Rothschild, as one of the few amongst his acquaintances able to write a check for £4,000,000 at a moment's notice. The arrangement was then concluded, the money was advanced to Egypt by the Rothschilds, and the entire transaction was made public. Mr. Greenwood showing, meanwhile, that a newspaper man can keep a secret.

The *United Services Gazette* reports that a late non-commissioned officer of the British forces has recently proved himself to be a general of no mean capacity in the service of the King of Abyssinia. It is seldom that a more complete disaster has befallen any body of troops than that recently inflicted upon the Egyptian forces under the command of the gallant Count Arendroop, by the Abyssinians under King John and General Kirkham. Of the 2,000 men comprising Count Arendroop's expedition, a mere handful escaped slaughter, and these fell into the hands of their enemies, though they were subsequently released in order that they might carry the news of the disaster to their countrymen. It is true that the Egyptians were outnumbered, as ten to one, but it is equally certain that very skilful tactics must have been employed by the Abyssinians, and the accounts lead us to suppose that General Kirkham had the direction of them. The "General" is said to have fought under Colonel Gordon in China, and, as a non-commissioned officer to have taken part in the British Expedition to Abyssinia, remaining in the country after our forces withdrew and taking service under King John. He was not long, it would appear, in finding opportunity for the display of military abilities of a high order.

SIR JOSEPH WHITWORTH has addressed the following letter on the subject of steel guns to the editor of the *London Times*: "In the *Times* of December 4th, under the heading 'Naval and Military Intelligence,' Sir J. A. A. is reported, in an address to the Royal Arsenal Artillery Volunteers, 'to have pointed out the danger resulting from the use of a brittle material like steel, as illustrated by the bursting of a breech-loading gun in France recently.' The position Sir J. A. A. lately held as adviser to the Secretary of State for war on artillery subjects must have weight with those who have no opportunity of forming a correct opinion on the subject. The French, in constructing their heavy breech-loading gun, have converted their old cast-iron muzzle-loading guns into breech-loaders and strengthened them by narrow steel hoops. The failure, therefore, of such a combination is no argument against the use of steel for guns. In a paper contributed by me, read at the meeting of the Mechanical Engineers at Manchester, on the 28th of July last, I drew attention to experiments I had made with tubes composed of cast-iron, wrought iron and steel, to show the effect of the explosion of gunpowder in different combinations of metals as used in the construction of various guns. These experiments conclusively proved the weakness

of the French construction, and showed what must inevitably happen, sooner or later, if guns of similar construction are used with heavy charges—a tube of cast-iron surrounded by a steel hoop. The relative proportions of the cast-iron and steel hoop being the same as the French gun referred to, the gun must burst with ninety grains of powder. A tube of steel surrounded by coiled wrought iron of the same proportions used in the Woolwich construction burst with 140 grains of powder. A tube of similar dimensions made of two tubes of fluid compressed steel, one shrunk over the other, was torn open by 275 grains of powder. This showed that, although the Woolwich construction is much stronger than the French construction, it is but little more than half as strong as it would be if made throughout of the fluid compressed ductile steel, which combines the essential qualities of soundness, strength and ductility.

Broad Arrow says: The 81-ton gun was got back to the Royal Gun Factories Dec. 10th, without difficulty, by a couple of locomotive engines, and will be taken into the turnery in order to have the bore enlarged from 14 1-2 to 15 inches. Before this is done, however, impressions of the bore will be taken in gutta-percha in order to ascertain whether the steel lining has been affected by the heavy strain to which it has been subjected in the late trials, but the gun is, to all appearances, as perfect as when it left the factory, except that the weather has oxydised a ruddy coat upon its unpainted skin. As there is only half-an-inch to be shaved off the interior of the gun, the period of three months which has been assigned to the work appears lengthy, but it is a tedious process and will take at least two months, even if the machinery is kept going night and day. The projectiles with which the gun will be tried in its new state will be necessarily larger in diameter than those already used, as they must fit the bore, but as they will probably be no heavier they will have to be considerably shorter. During the late experiments notice was taken of the time occupied in loading the gun. There were about a dozen artillerymen employed to perform this duty, and notwithstanding that there were delays occasioned by the measurement of the cartridge being taken both before and after being rammed home, the operation was completed in eight minutes. Without delays, the time taken would be about five minutes, and with men trained to the work not more than three minutes, a consideration of importance in considering the utility of large guns in action. The trials of the 81-ton gun have decided for the present the question as to whether or not it will be necessary to make still larger guns of 100 or 160 tons, although plans have been drawn at the Royal Gun Factories for guns of all weights up to 250 tons, which the department is ready to produce if called upon. In fact, however, of the fact that the 81-ton gun has proved itself immeasurably the best gun in the world, and while England has guns of that weight which can endure such enormous powder charges, and hurl shots weighing two-thirds of a ton with such force as to penetrate 20 inches of iron armor at half a mile range, it is improbable that guns of larger size will be ordered by the Government, especially as ships coated with 20 inches of iron will be difficult to float. The great gun is believed to have passed a satisfactory examination, but the first report on this point will be made to the War Office. Notwithstanding that larger guns may not be immediately projected, it is thought advisable to enlarge the machinery at the Royal Gun Factories, if only to facilitate the construction of the guns already on hand, and a crane capable of lifting 160 tons is to be erected. The locomotive "gunner," which has acquired some fame in connection with the 81-ton gun is to be superseded by a larger engine, which will take its name to itself, while the "gunner," as befitting its lesser size, will take second rank and title as the "driver."

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MARRIED.

[Announcements of Marriages and Births FIFTY CENTS each, and the signature and address of the party sending should accompany the notice.]

HOLABIRD—AUGUR.—At St. Paul's Church, New Orleans, La., Dec. 27, 1875, by the Rev. H. H. Waters, WILLIAM HOLABIRD, son of General S. B. Holabird, U. S. Army, and MOLLIE F. AUGUR, daughter of General C. C. Augur, U. S. Army. No cards.

DIED.

Brief announcements will be inserted under this head without charge. Obituary notices and resolutions should be paid for at the rate of two cents a word, unless it is intended to leave the question of their insertion to the discretion of the Editor.

GIRARD.—At Basle, Switzerland, on the 36th of Nov., 1875, Dr. C. F. GIRARD, Professor at the University of Basle; and on the 14th of Dec., his wife, JOHANNA THEODORA GIRARD—parents of Assistant Surgeon A. C. Girard, U. S. Army.

HEQUEMOUND.—At Fort McPherson, Nebraska, Friday, Dec. 24, 1875, the Rev. CHAS. L. HEQUEMOUND, of Dunkirk, N. Y., Chaplain United States Army, aged 64 years, 5 months.

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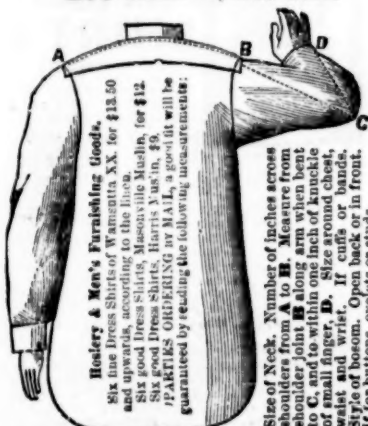
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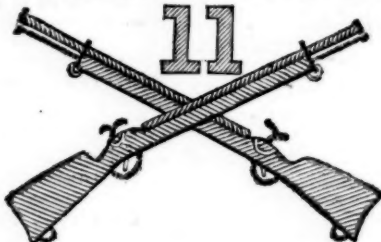
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